September 1997

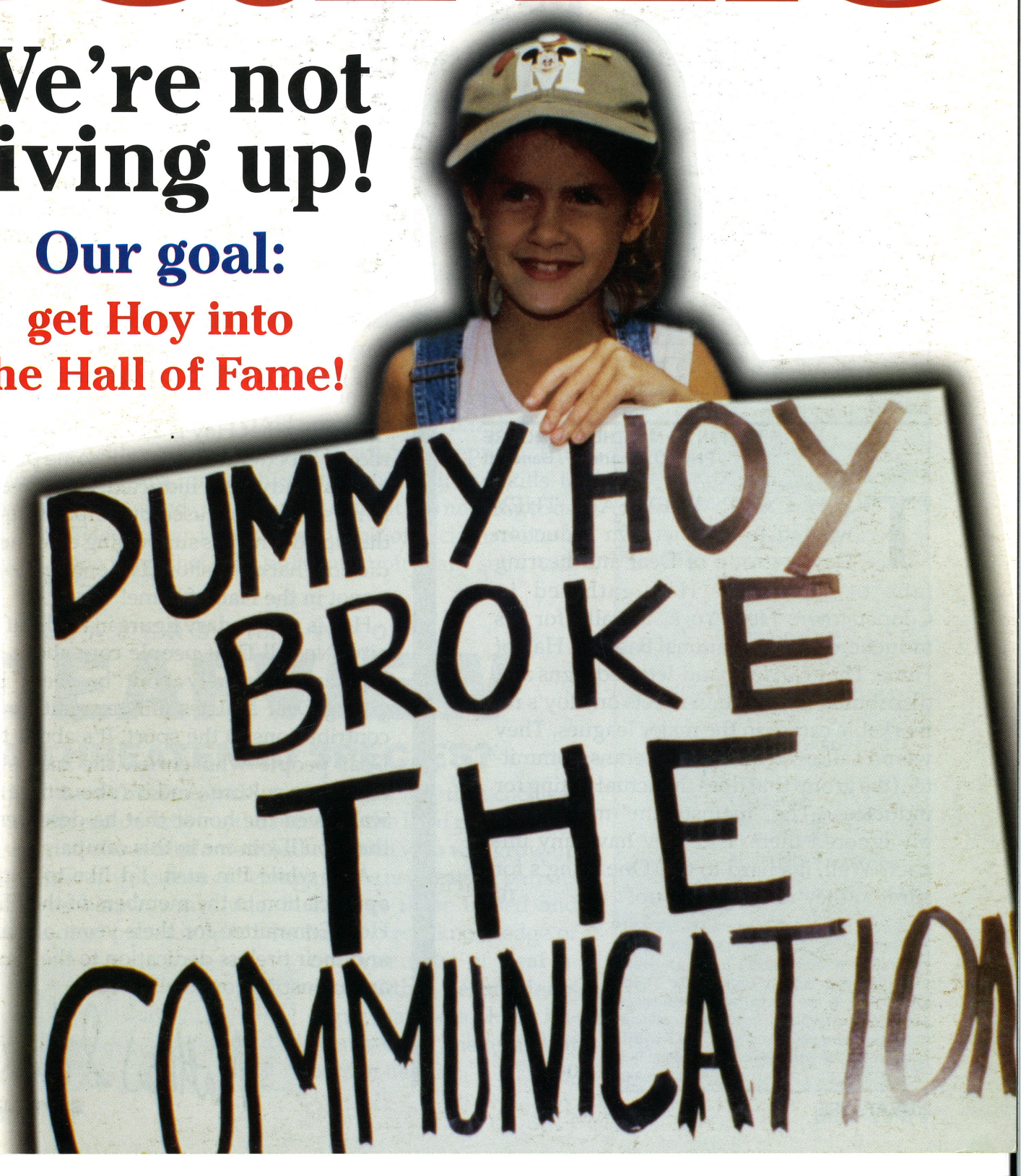
DeafLife

$2.50

We're not giving up!

Our goal:

get Hoy into the Hall of Fame!



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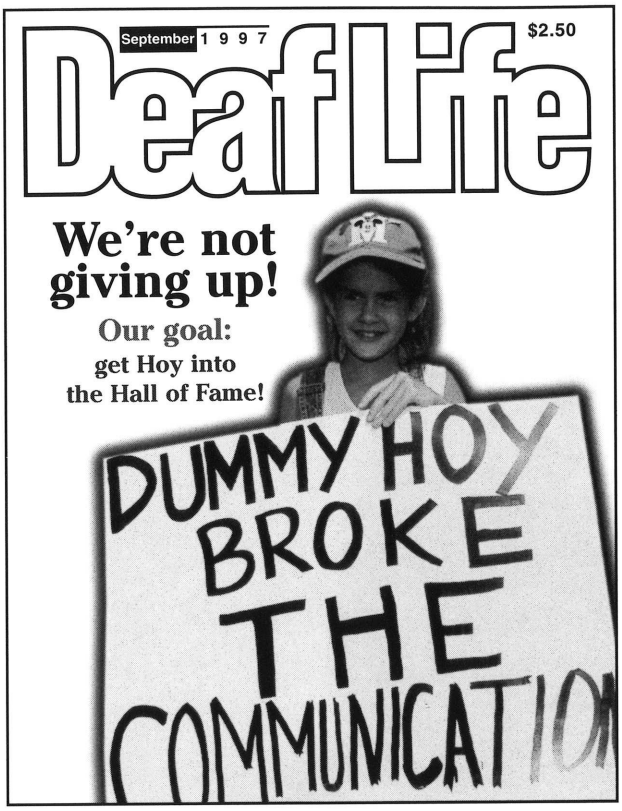

COVER

DESIGN BY MATTHEW S. MOORE
PHOTO: Charles F. Bancroft

THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY wanted to conquer. On Induction Day, a group of Deaf and hearing fans of "Dummy" Hoy gathered in Cooperstown, New York, to rally for his induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. They carried hand-lettered signs and distributed information sheets on Hoy's remarkable career in the major leagues. They weren't allowed near the Veterans Committee (the group that does the actual voting for inductees). The "mainstream" media simply ignored them. Did they have any impact? Well, it's hard to tell. One thing's for sure . . . they're *not* giving up! 10

Publisher's Note

Each summer, a handful of players are inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. This year, the AAAD Committee for "Dummy" Hoy decided to do some lobbying onsite—right at the Induction Ceremony. Two dozen Hoy supporters, Deaf and hearing, showed up, and carried signs and distributed handouts publicizing Hoy's achievements.

Our goal—theirs and **DEAF LIFE's**—is to have Hoy inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. We will not be satisfied until we achieve this goal. So I intend to push until Hoy is voted in.

I believe that Hoy is eminently qualified. His record is better than those of some players who have already been inducted. Hoy invented the hand signals now used by umpires throughout the world. There is supporting evidence that he did so. That *alone* should be enough to win him a spot in the Hall of Fame!

Hoy is a legendary figure in the Deaf community. Not all Deaf people care about baseball. But this isn't entirely about "baseball." It's about giving Deaf athletes fair recognition for their contributions to the sport. It's about honoring Deaf people who enrich the mainstream of American culture. And it's about time that Hoy was given the honor that he deserves. I hope that you'll join me in this campaign.

And while I'm at it, I'd like to express my appreciation to the members of the "Dummy" Hoy Committee for their years of hard work and their tireless dedication to the cause. They are an inspiration to all of us.

Matthew S. Moore

SEPTEMBER 1997

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. . . A FEW MORE WORDS

ATHLETIC ALPHABET SOUP?

■ When an organization chooses a name, it also gets a "bonus": an acronym. Sometimes these become better known than the name itself. But . . . not all acronyms "work right." Bill Davidson, AAAD sportswriter and "bystander," looks at the names chosen by several Deaf Sports organizations, and analyzes the "unintended" image presented by their acronyms. **24**

Beyond the Envelope

RASL-DASL?

■ Another commentary on acronyms. The "Developmental Approach to Successful Listening" (DASL, pronounced "dazzle") was described in the Ashley Yount story (our April cover reprint). This is an intensive program for teaching speech/auditory skills to children who have received cochlear implants. (It has **nothing** to do with ASL.) Michele Listisard discusses this bit of slick marketing, and suggests some ways that the Deaf community can "sell" ASL. **27**

READERS' VIEWPOINT

DEAFVIEW

A THREATENED SPECIES?

■ More than three-fourths of 458 respondents feel that cochlear implants are indeed destroying the future of the Deaf community. They are worried about implanted deaf children who will grow up with no Deaf identity or sense of belonging. It's not hearing parents who should be blamed, says one, but rather those biased and influential medical professionals who have no real knowledge or understanding of Deaf issues. Other respondents argue that the cochlear implants don't make a deaf person hearing. **30**

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Deaf Life

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"So beautifully done!"

Dear Matthew.

You can't imagine how thrilled we all are with the wonderful cover-story on ***Sweet Nothing in My Ear***! So beautifully done!

From the striking cover with the yellow-edged photo to the lay-out with the interviews and the little drawings from the play, you just did such a thoughtful, caring job on the whole article. We thank you with all our hearts.

I'm putting a check in the mail to you today . . . and asking you to send 20 copies of the issue. We want to give one to each cast and crew member and keep some for our archives. I hope you have that many copies left! If you don't, perhaps you could tell me where to find them.

I'll send you a copy of my video of the play as soon as I get the copies made.

Stephen joins me in expressing thanks to you for your faith in his project.

Deborah Lawlor
Producing Artistic Director
Fountain Theatre
Los Angeles, California

OOPS!

✏ We wish to correct an error published in the cover story about ***Sweet Nothing in My Ear***. This was the inadvertent repetition of John Benitz's name (in the roles of Dr. Weissman and Dr. Flynt) and the omission of Cal Bartlett's name. John Benitz played Dr. Weissman. Cal Bartlett played Dr. Flynt. We apologize for the error, and thank fellow cast-member Bernard Bragg for calling it to our attention. Mr. Bartlett, by the way, is a CoDA.

"Mountains out of molehills"

I was just reading through the July issue of **Deaf Life** and noticed in the section of "Sign Mania Sweeps Nation" **[DEAF LIFE Plus]** you say that Anthony Natale is being written into ***Ellen*** show. This is NOT TRUE. I had heard this rumor and as the technical advisor on the program called the producer at home. This is untrue and Anthony is NOT being written into the show. According to the producer they presently have 'no plans' to bring Anthony or his character back.

Please correct this error, as this is how rumors start in the Deaf community and mountains are made out of molehills with actors in the deaf community.

Starting this kind of rumor wil [*sic*] self-made decisions in publicity about characters on shows etc., is also a sure way for Hollywood to back off from using deaf in the future.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Jennifer Delora
Los Angeles, California

Editors' note: *The "News Brief" about Anthony Natale was adapted from an item carried on the NJ-L News E-mail service. We assume that it originated with Mr. Natale's publicist, since it contained a promotion for his new video (which we didn't include).*

Shame, tsk, shame, tsk, shame!

I am so humiliated when the big bold printed article about New Mexico that draw my attention [lead story, May 1997 **DEAF LIFE Plus**] and am very disgusted with NMCDHH committee and staff.

Although it has been corrupted before this happened due their inexperience knowledge

LETTERS

and understand of what general deaf, hard of hearing, hearing impaired people's needs. Several organizations of deaf and hearing impaired people have not to be too happy with them.

I am a former New Mexico student under Judy Viera Tingley's first year teacher at New Mexico School for the Deaf. I always think Judy was a great, wonderful, warm teacher and enjoyed her as my teacher. Since then to now I have heard bits of talk on her various director positions and various kind of deaf organization involvement through other state friends. I am a New Mexico deaf citizen taxpayer—dislike seeing my tax money use for personal favoritism or prejudice.

This whole thing was conducted as non-professional ethics. What I understand that someone in the NMCDHH wanted to eliminate Judy due to age. They are discriminating the ages. Naturally when anyone who used to work in our state will fall in love with the place and wants to return to that place. Anyone will work for a several years until retirement or something. Would you not?

I read over and over, puzzled about some deaf committee have difficult times to work with Judy in the past. Gee, Judy worked in NM for 3 years and after that only time she comes to NM for visit or on her vacation from time to time. Those deaf or normal hearing committee(s) must have had personal feelings or negative feelings against her.

I am very much in favor to have Judy Viera Tingley to be a best chosen director due to her rich experience and knowledge. Because Judy can mingle around different groups of deaf end hearing impaired like SHHH, oralists and total deafness. Since Judy lost her hearing when she was young. It is time to hire a best, experienced, deaf director and I feel that deaf children need role model to look up to. Also she has some understanding of NM's many old and new cultures and nationality.

Thank You for Getting My Attention about this. article. It boils me to see my tax money end donation to organizations for belittling, favoritism and nonprofessional ethics. By next election time for various organizations, we will set the whole truth or act and see some drastic changes.

Jean Noling Smith
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Inquiry for Indiana

Dear Sirs,

I am hard of hearing/deaf. I became that way from working in factories with loud noise as an adult. I'm studying sign lang. but not too good yet. I'm in a Deaf organization called Deaflink, in Ft. Wayne, IN. They gave me your name as that you have a newspaper that comes out, and I would like to get a sample copy so I can see what it's like. Do you have personal ads in it that a deaf person can put an ad or write to a person of opposite sex to have a relationship? I'm single right now and am looking for someone to have be together that is hard of hearing /deaf like I am.

Do you know where an adult that looses their hearing and want to learn sign lang. is concentrated way every day, and where can they go to do that. Cause most of the schools just have, like one day a week for maybe ten weeks, and it's not enough to learn it good.

I also want to get a computer and get on Internet, and talk to deaf people; is there a chat line for hard of hearing/deaf? And what would be a good computer to get? I went to Business college and studied computers, and

use them every week, but don't have my own yet. Thank you that's all. Hope to hear from you.

N. H.
Ossian, Indiana

Editors' note: *We sent Mr. H. a sample copy, subscription information, some possible leads in the Fort Wayne and Indianapolis areas, and answered his questions. As for the chatroom, we're planning to set one up as part of our big Website project this fall.*

"I seem to be stuck"

Dear Editors at **Deaf Life**,

Hello, my name is Katie Aase, I am 14 years old and hearing. I stumbled across your magazine when I was browsing my library's computer catalog under key word, Deaf. I will be taking ASL as my second [language], I hope to be a teacher for the deaf. I have read anything I can get my hands on about the Deaf community and ASL. Due to certain SOP of my school district I am unable to take ASL until I am in my Junior year. I am trying to learn about the language through books, but some things about ASL are impossible to learn from a book. I also want to be part of the Deaf community, but due to the minor handicap of hearing it seems my chances of being accepted are slim. A hearing person that I am acquainted with told me that it will be almost impossible to be part of the Deaf Community, or even learn true ASL, because I am hearing and (with good reason) the Deaf community is wary of the hearing.

I fear that if I don't experience the Deaf community hands-on I will be one of the teachers of the deaf that the Deaf community complain about, incompetent. I have been hesitant to attend any public gatherings or seminars because of my limited ASL. I seem to be stuck between a rock and a hard place (pardon the idiom). Any advice you can give me I would love to hear. I am feeling rather desperate. Thanks for your time.

Katie Aase

The Editors reply: *Don't despair. There are a couple of points we'd like to emphasize. First, the sad reality is that there are some Deaf groups who do not welcome newcomers, be they oral-deaf, late-deafened, or hearing.*

Second, the Deaf community cannot thrive without hearing people. That's something that the members of the "isolationist" group tend to forget. We depend on sign-language interpreters, stenocaptioners, relay-service agents, notetakers, and other "hearings" for our communication-access needs. Deaf people have hearing children, families, neighbors—and friends, too.

So where does that leave you? Frustrated, no doubt, but not really stuck. As we have already pointed out, if a hearing person seeks to join the Deaf community, much depends on her/his motivation and attitude. One who respects Deaf people and is eager to learn more can find a way to become part of "open" social activities by volunteering to help at festivals and fundraisers. Some hearing people acquire an interest that develops into a sign-language-study career when they become friends with one Deaf person. What presents a formidable obstacle in a group situation may be a minor barrier, or none, in a friendship.

We encourage you to attend seminars and Deaf Awareness events. Try to see if you can follow the interpreters and Deaf presenters, even a little. Take notes. Get on the mailing list. Participate as much as you can.

Obviously, snobbery is a powerful force. But friendship can be even more powerful. It's important to establish friendships . . . . and to never let yourself get discouraged. There's a support network out there,

LETTERS

and you are not alone. We wish you the best of luck in getting connected.

Tidbit

Is it possible to get a sample copy of your publication. I heard it was wonderful and full of information.

At the present time I wear two hearing aids, and lost 80% in one ear and 60% in the other.

I also would like to subscribe to your publication. Please send me an order form as soon as possible.

Thank you.

K. M.
Cheektowaga, New York

Editors' note: *Subscription and book information and a sample copy of* ***DEAF LIFE*** *were sent out promptly.*

The last word on peddling? (Or being cheap?)

✏ ***Editor's note:*** *The following letter (a response to Michele Listisard's October 1996 "Beyond the Envelope" installment) arrived without a signature or return address. A used 23¢ stamp was taped onto the envelope, with a "Postage Due" rubberstamp from the Post Office. Although our policy is not to publish unsigned letters, we'll let this one speak for itself.*

I would like to tell Michael Schwartz that I have had an old friend who is or was a peddler & became a millionaire.

I don't approve of peddling at all.

From a reader—

Thank you, for the wonderful book, For Hearing People Only!

I want to thank you for the wonderful book, **For Hearing People Only**. I grew up deaf in all-hearing family. I went to public school and hated it very much. I met several deaf friends who uses ASL. I learned a lot from them.

One day I came across your book, **For Hearing People Only**, thru my deaf friend. I asked her if I could borrow it and she agreed to let me have it as long I promised to return it. She won't let it go out of sight. I read it and loved it because I learned so much about my community and ordered two copies through Barnes and Noble. One for myself and one for my family.

As soon as I got my two copies, I gave it to my parents asking them to please read it if they love me. They read it and really changed their attitude toward my deafness and me. They now accepted me for who I am, a Deaf daughter...They don't bother me about my speech anymore, and they don't bother me about getting cochlear implant anymore.

Several cousins read the book and started to learn some basic signs. I just couldn't believe how much your book had made a difference in hearing people's attitude toward us Deaf people. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart and soul for coming up with this wonderful book.

I believe that it should be a required book for all sign language classes or Deaf studies classes. It is so easy to read and very straightfoward about our community. Please do not stop spreading the book. We need it badly!

Thank you!

J. Wells
Altanta, GA

Editors' note: *You are very welcome and we're pleased that we've made a difference! But there is so much more that needs to be done.*

All letters must be signed and have a return address. No anonymous (unsigned) letters will be published, but we will withhold your name on request. Send letters to: **DEAF LIFE**, c/o MSM Productions, Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380. FAX: 716-442-6371. E-mail: deaflife@deaflife.com

FOR HEARING PEOPLE ONLY™

Isn't it possible to have the best of both worlds —ASL *and* a cochlear implant?

As you surely know, for over a century, medical professionals have been advising parents of deaf children that they must never, ever use sign language. If they do, their children will never learn to speak properly. Parents of children who receive cochlear implants are (in most cases) required to commit them (and themselves) to a grueling oral/auditory program. There is absolutely *no* room for sign language there. Exposure to ASL, goes the argument, only impedes an implanted child's progress. The doctors make this clear when they counsel parents of prospective implantees: do *not* sign. Should the parents persist in using ASL with their child (and, in a few cases, children choose ASL for themselves), the clinic may drop them.

What is the clinics' rationale? Sign language interferes with the acquisition of speech. Well, here we are in the technological age of enlightenment, but in terms of attitude, it's back to the Dark Ages. Some things never change.

The aim of an oral/auditory program is to teach a deaf child to speak, speechread, and use her/his residual hearing. Adding a cochlear implant intensifies the "rehabilitation" process and puts an added burden on the child. S/he spends several long months learning to interpret the electronically processed sounds as meaningful speech. The outcome is totally unpredictable. Some children thrive; others fail. How many fail for each one who succeeds? Half? Most? We don't yet know.

Isn't it possible to have the benefit of both the oral/aural and sign-language packages? Ideally, yes, but in practice, it usually doesn't work out that way. Parents of children who receive implants have, by and large, already committed themselves to an oral/aural approach. Most of them have not learned even the rudiments of signing, and, moreover, have absolutely no intention of doing so. They believe that they are making *the best* decision for their child. And in this, they are reinforced by the doctors, audiologists, and speech pathologists. As a result, these children may already have a sizable "language gap" when they receive their implants.

Some of these doctors and clinicians (and the parents themselves) perpetrate the stereotypical notion that parents who choose the oral/aural regimen have higher expectations for their children than do those who

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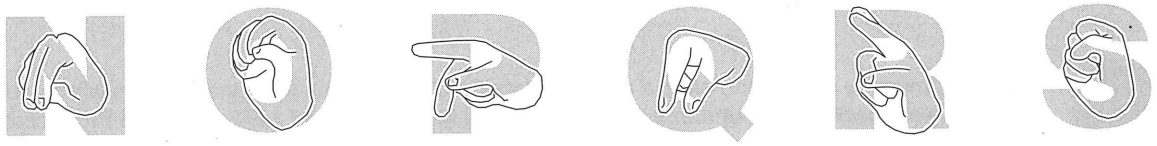

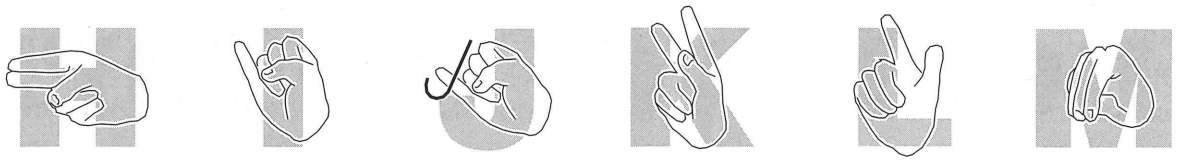

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choose an ASL-based mode. *Sure, the oral/aural approach is tough, but so rewarding! We know what is best for our kids.* Who doesn't want the best for their children?

But if parents choose to deny their child exposure to and practice in sign language, they're choosing the hard way. Which is not necessarily the *best* way.

We're not speaking from the standpoint of rigorous double-blind scientific studies, but from long, bitter, and painful experience. We personally know many deaf people. Many of them have complained bitterly about the oral/aural regimen they were subjected to as children. We know *none* who complained about being subjected to a rigorous sign-language regimen! Indeed, they almost always picked up sign-language skills from other deaf children—not from a teacher, pathologist, clinical manual, nor a member of the medical profession. That says something, doesn't it? Common complaints are that their schooling wasn't academically demanding enough; the doctors told their parents not to sign; their parents couldn't communicate with them; speech therapy was a boring and hateful ordeal. Etcetera.

Even medical/audiological professionals who claim that they respect sign language and present it as a legitimate option to parents may nonetheless encouraged low expectations, whether or not they counsel shocked and bereaved parents to learn sign. The implant industry, on the other hand, takes an aggressively "positive" approach: *See how much your child can accomplish with our product! For a deaf child with an implant who can talk and listen, the sky's the limit! Implanted deaf kids can do ANYTHING! The implant lets them be NORMAL!*

We *know* that early exposure to sign language benefits deaf children. We *know* that complete reliance on a strict oral/aural regimen can create a debilitating language gap. We *know* that doctors are dead wrong when they play the absolutist game: *either take the strict oral/aural approach, or get the heck out of my clinic and put your kid in a signing program.* We *know* that parents are often hoodwinked into choosing implants. We *know* that implants are aggressively marketed to parents, as ASL is not.

Some deaf people who have received cochlear implants had such bad experiences with them, or have flourished in a newly-acquired ASL milieu, that they stopped using them, and a few have gone through the trouble of having them surgically removed. We're curious if the implant industry takes any note of this. Some young implantees—relatively few, so far as we can see—may manage to develop good bilingual skills in an ASL environment while benefiting from their implants. But what about the hazing they endure from their non-implanted peers? In a school for the deaf, an implant can hardly be a status symbol. What does the implant do to promote good language skills? Literacy? The picture is still inconclusive.

The implant industry, nonetheless, is doing booming business. More and more deaf children are undergoing surgery, the whole oral/aural *shtick*, and mainstreaming. Deaf people have ASL and the perspective of experience. The implant/medical industry has the money, the clout, the networking, the referral system, and the market.

Have a question about Deaf people and their culture?...Write to:
FOR HEARING PEOPLE ONLY™, Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380.
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So near, yet so far:

rallying for "Dummy" Hoy in Cooperstown

On Sunday, August 3, four players were inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. After the 1997 Hall of Fame inductees were announced on March 5, the AAAD Committee for "Dummy" Hoy decided that it was time to get actively involved onsite. Hoy supporters rallied at the induction ceremonies. The purpose: to educate attendees and the media, on a very basic level, about the achievements of "Dummy" Hoy, the first deaf major-leaguer and the true inventor of the umpire's signs for "Safe!", "Strike!", "Ball!", and "Out!"

1997 Hall of Fame inductees were the late Nellie Fox, second baseman for the Chicago White Sox during the 1950s; Tommy Lasorda, the colorful manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1977 to 1996; Phil Niekro, a pitcher (Atlanta Braves, New York Yankees, Cleveland Indians, and Toronto Blue Jays) famous for his knuckleball, who now manages the Colorado Silver Bullets, the touring women's baseball team; and the late Willie "Devil" Wells, shortstop and hitter who put in 20 seasons with the Negro Leagues (St. Louis Stars, Chicago America Giants, and Newark Eagles, 1925-49). Wells, who died in 1989, was the 14th player from the Negro

VETS TAKE NOTE GIVE "Dummy" HOY YOUR VOTE!
VETS TAKE NOTE GIVE "Dummy" HOY YOUR VOTE!
DON'T STRIKE OUT "DUMMY" HOY
"DUMMY" HO BROKE THE
WE LOVE

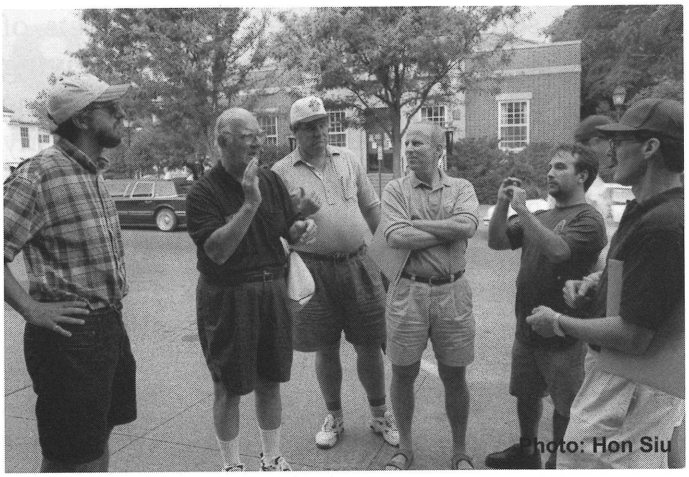
Leagues elected to the Hall of Fame.

"Pride and Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience," the new "blockbuster exhibit" at the Museum, commemorates the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's "breaking the color barrier" in major-league baseball. The Committee for "Dummy" Hoy had pressed for a small concurrent exhibit focusing on Hoy and other deaf baseball players, but Museum officials explained that all exhibits had to be planned several years in advance. The Museum did express interest in mounting a "Deaf Americans in Baseball" exhibit. That, of course, would become a more definite prospect if Hoy were elected to the Hall of Fame. This year, his name was on the ballot, as it had been three times in the past four years. So the cause is very much alive, and the campaign continues.

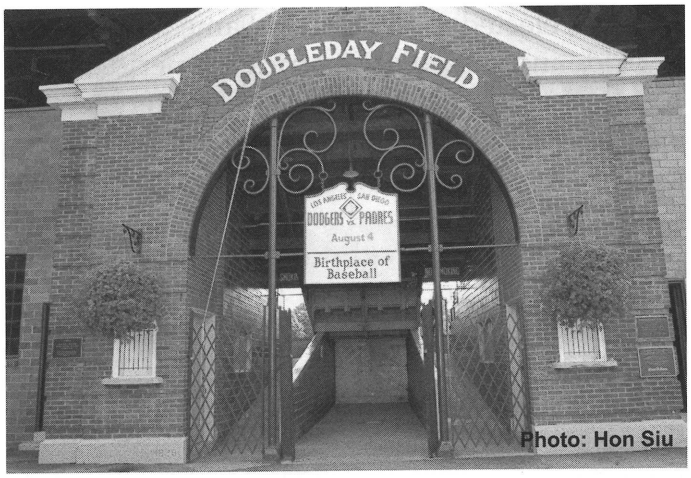
Bob Panara, who has lobbied for the induction of Hoy for the past 15 years, had set up a dedicated Website with assistance from his son John, and prepared two sets of broadsheets: one announcing the rally and giving directions on how to get to Cooperstown, and one to be handed out at the Induction Ceremony ("William 'Dummy' Hoy Belongs in the Hall of Fame . . . This year we rally! Next year we celebrate!!"). These contained a few notable "stats" from Hoy's career, including his playing in 1,798 games, 2,054 hits, 9 seasons scoring 100+ runs, 607 stolen bases, 1,004 walks, .288 batting average, 389 outfield assists, and throwing out three baserunners at home plate in one game. And, of course, his invention of the hand signals for "strike," "ball," "safe," and "out."[1]

At the fence separating the ticketholders from the "groundsitters," "Dummy" Hoy's supporters hold up their placards. A CNN videocameraman panned them, but they received no mainstream media coverage.

PHOTO: CHARLES F. BANCROFT



Members of the Committee for "Dummy" Hoy discuss strategy with AAAD President Larry Fleischer before leaving for the rally. They gathered in front of the National Baseball Hall of Fame on Cooperstown's Main Street. Left to right: John Panara, Bob Panara, Jim Goodwin, Larry Fleischer, Robert D. Traina, Jr., and Randy Fisher.



The front gates to Doubleday Field, the supposed "birthplace of baseball."

A VERY BIG DEAL

Tucked into eastern-central New York, between of Utica and Binghamton, Cooperstown was the home of James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851), the first major American novelist and the first to deal seriously with American Indian themes. He's most famous for the "Leatherstocking Tales," especially **The Last of the Mohicans**, although that's not his best book. His greatest creation is the mythical character Natty Bumppo, also called "Hawkeye," a white man who lives among Indians and understands their language, lore, and ways, and is respected, even revered, by them.

Cooperstown is on the southern tip of the long, narrow, but vast Lake Otsego, and on the Susquehanna River. Remote but beautiful, it's surrounded by rolling hills, tree-covered mountains, old-fashioned farms, and antique stores. It's a delightful place—a small town that has managed to retain its quaint 19th-century charm while offering visitors all the modern amenities. There are many attractions—even if you don't care about the baseball stuff. But baseball is a major attraction here—one could say a primary theme. Cooperstown bills itself as the "Birthplace of Baseball" and "Where It All Began."

Some of the plaques in the Hall of Fame have inaccurate and plain erroneous information on them—like the one crediting umpire Bill Klem with inventing hand signals.

Make no mistake about it, baseball is a very big thing in the United States. And Induction Day at Cooperstown is a *very* big deal. People come from all over to join in the celebration, cheer for their heroes, shop, visit the Hall of Fame, and see the sights.

The local residents accept this annual influx with good grace, keeping their gardens spruce and making a bit of money by renting parking space in their backyards and driveways for $5 or $10 per car. The crowd is huge, but not rowdy—there are lots of families. Mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, babies in strollers, kids and teenagers and elderly people swarm across the sidewalks and throng Main Street. Red-and-green trolleys roll in and out of view. Main Street is tree-lined and shady, decorated with flowers, and has a picturesque lineup of (mostly) Victorian-era shopfronts.

In Cooperstown, you can find just about anything in baseball—cards, postcards, envelopes, stamps, autographs, T-shirts, baseball jerseys, caps, pins, souvenirs, personalized real and miniature bats, pennants, program books, posters . . . Virtually every store has a baseball theme or offers baseball-related goodies—

memorabilia, clothing, even soda shops. Even those that were non-baseball-oriented had "welcome" posters in their windows. There were tables set up on the sidewalk, too, selling special-issue stamps and cards. Big business here.

So very tempting. But memorabilia of "Dummy" Hoy is notably scarce and fantastically expensive, so no one tried looking. Anyway, they didn't have time.

Cooperstown got a bit of rain early in the afternoon—and few of the visitors had umbrellas! But it soon stopped. The skies cleared, the sun came out, and the afternoon heated up. We had sunshine and heat for the rest of the afternoon.

AT THE HALL OF FAME

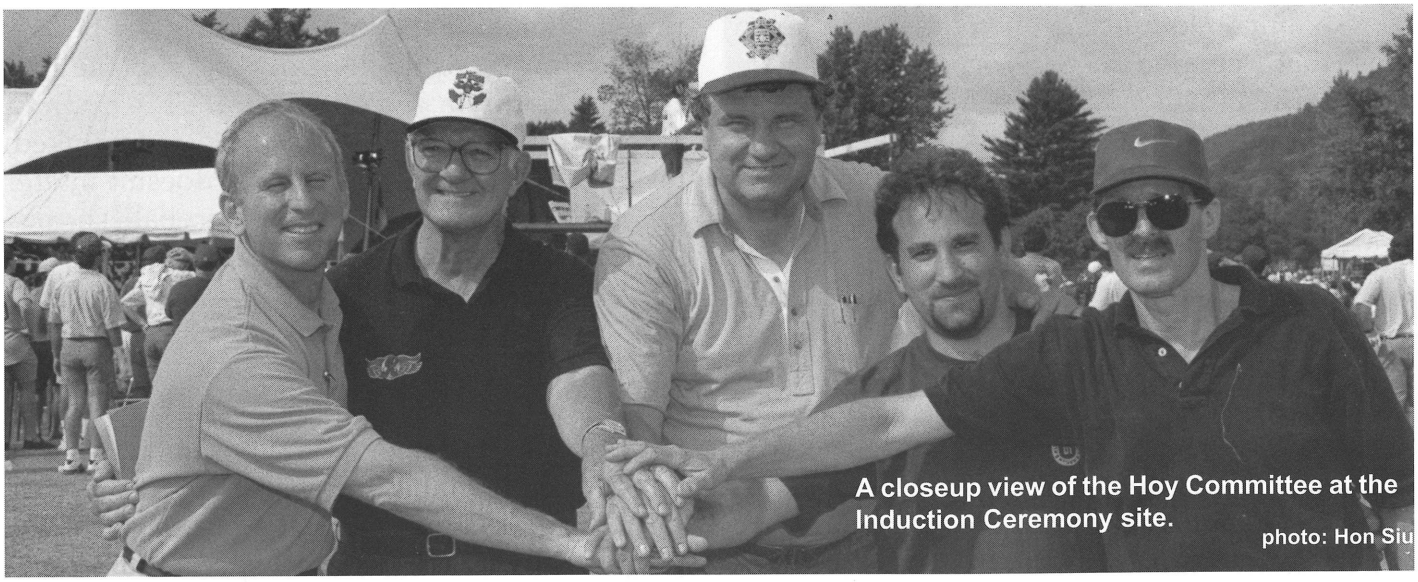
The National Baseball Hall of Fame is a handsome brick building (actually, a couple of joined buildings) in the Colonial style, smack-dab in the middle of Main Street, next to J.J. Newberry's variety store. It dates to 1939—late Depression-era—as does nearby Doubleday Field, which marks the site where, one hundred years before, Abner Doubleday supposedly laid out the first baseball game in a cow pasture. This myth (a falsehood, really) has been thoroughly debunked, but it persists. And, in a way, it doesn't matter much. You have to locate a "baseball shrine" someplace. The first recorded baseball game was played in 1846 in Hoboken, New Jersey, a gritty manufacturing and shipbuilding city just across the Hudson River from Manhattan. There is, as far as I know, nothing especially pastoral or nostalgic about it. Hoboken might have the history—but Cooperstown has the charm.[2]

The Hall of Fame isn't just a bunch of bronze plaques. It contains the finest sports museum in the world, the National Baseball Library and Archives (the finest collection of its sort—and how I itched to see it!), a movie theater, and interactive exhibits. And a shop. (And, judging from all the dark-blue-and-gold bags I saw being carried, it was doing brisk business.)

There is a plaque just to the right of the front exit door:

Hoy supporters lining up to board the Induction Ceremony schoolbus shuttle in front of Doubleday Field.

Photo: Charles F. Bancroft



A closeup view of the Hoy Committee at the Induction Ceremony site. photo: Hon Siu

SITE OF THE FIRST
NATIONAL BASEBALL
HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION, JUNE 12, 1939

ATTENDED BY GROVER ALEXANDER, TY COBB, EDDIE COLLINS, WALTER JOHNSON, NAP LAJOIE, CONNIE MACK, BABE RUTH, GEORGE SISLER, TRIS SPEAKER, HONUS WAGNER AND CY YOUNG

Hoy played with some of those, and knew most, if not all, of them. He should have been there, too!

GATHERING TOGETHER

About 24 people, most of them Deaf, participated in the rally. Larry Fleischer, President of the American Athletic Association of the Deaf, had come in from Los Angeles. Three of the four members of the AAAD Committee for "Dummy" Hoy were there: Bob Panara from Rochester, New York, Robert D. Traina, Jr., from Washington, D.C.; and Jim Goodwin and Randy Fisher from Belmont, Pennsylvania. Randy's son Matthew was also there. (Steve Sandy of Columbus, Ohio, who has done such exhaustive research on Hoy, wasn't able to come, alas.) Other participants were: Robert Breen of Brooklyn, New York; Tony Maucere of Bayside, New York; John A. Ennis of Baltimore, Maryland; Cindy, Danny, Paulette, and Vanessa Gabel of Staten Island, New York; Dana Charles Hughes of Knoxville, Tennessee; Jerry and Irene Kane of suburban Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Todd Tillotson of Flushing, New York; and Joseph Crosta, Todd Epps, Matt T. Hochkeppel, Daphne Shepard, and Joey Wujciak of NTID in Rochester.

There was no interpreter or captioning at the Induction Ceremony. As far as the National Baseball Hall of Fame is concerned, deaf people are still invisible.

The placards had already been prepared. These were large pieces of white poster-cardboard with lettering in black Magic Marker—as simple as could be. They said, "HOY = H.O.F.," "WITHOUT 'DUMMY' HOY, BASEBALL WOULDN'T BE THE SAME TODAY," "DON'T STRIKE OUT 'DUMMY' HOY AGAIN!," "'DUMMY' HOY BROKE THE COMMUNICATION BARRIER," "'DUMMY' HOY: ROLE MODEL FOR DISABLED PLAYERS," "JACKIE ROBINSON MADE IT. WHY NOT HOY?", "VETS TAKE NOTE/GIVE 'DUMMY' HOY YOUR VOTE!" One placard read "'DUMMY' HOY BELONGS IN COPPERTOWN." (Actually, that wasn't so far off the mark.

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"COPPERTOWN" is so very similar to "BRONZEVILLE!") The Hoy team distributed their first broadsheets on Main Street.

In a small, cozy, but very busy restaurant, appropriately called The Short Stop, they gathered, discussed strategy, and were photographed with their placards. Randy wanted to know about the progress of the upcoming Deaf Life Press book on Hoy. After they had talked a bit and the hungriest travelers had something to eat, they headed for nearby Doubleday Field. They wanted to get to the Induction Ceremony early, and gain maximum exposure. The more people who saw the placards and broadsheets, the better.

The Induction Ceremony, by the way, wasn't held at the Hall of Fame. (There wouldn't be anywhere near enough space to accommodate the huge crowd!) Nor was it held at Doubleday Field—possibly due to the relatively limited space there (seating capacity is 10,000), possibly to ensure that the field was in top shape for tomorrow's game between the Dodgers and the Padres. A free shuttle to and from the Induction Ceremony was provided by Birnie Bus Service. Everyone queued up and boarded yellow schoolbuses in front of the Doubleday Field entrance gate. The Hoy team distributed more broadsheets as they waited to board.

A 5-minute drive to the Clark Sports Center on the outskirts of town, and they were dropped off at the edge of a vast playing field.

VIPS , FANS, AND PICNICKERS

A large "band-shell" tent had been set up near the gym driveway and parking lot, with a podium and lectern, as the focal point. It was decorated with a Hall of Fame banner and tricolor bunting, and wired for sound, with loudspeakers and all. Tiers of chairs (for the speakers, inductees, and Veterans Committee members) had been set up on either side of the lectern. Behind the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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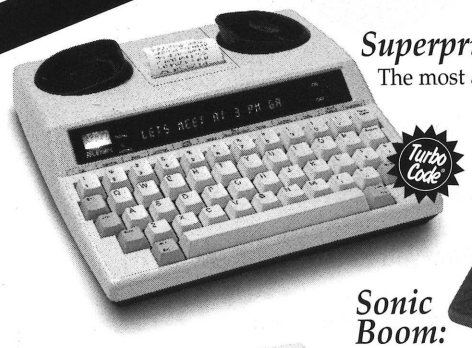

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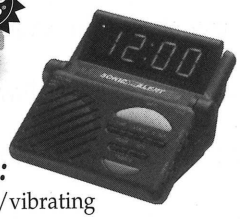

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

lectern was a sort of giant baseball trophy. Several hundred folding chairs were neatly set up in curved rows for ticketholders. (The event is free, but only VIPs and ticketholders get reserved seating—and the best view—within the fenced-in area.) It looked like an open-air auditorium. Opposite the main tent, towards the back of the reserved section, were scaffolding and platforms for ESPN and other broadcasters' videocams. The event was getting good media coverage—obviously!

The security was, if not tight, at least serious. State troopers in gray uniforms and "Mountie" hats stood by, looking tough, patrolling the grounds, roadblocks, the driveway and lot where the chartered buses were parked, and the two entrances to the reserved-seating section. There were also security personnel (no uniforms) associated with the Hall of Fame. They helped guide visitors and keep things orderly. Certain places were off-limits to the crowd. A sign near the gym read: "Restrooms for reserved section ticketholders only." Those without tickets had to use the Port-a-Jons lined up at the front and the far side of the field. An Emergency Medical Services truck and ambulance were there too, should they be needed. Paramedics stood by, on alert.

Temporary fencing of splintery green-stained timber and wire, about 5 feet high, separated the ticketholders from the ticketless. Two parallel entryways to the tent and reserved-seating section were delineated by the fencing. There were four classes of tickets: red and blue took the left path; yellow and green took the right. Although the tent had a high podium, the further in back you were, the worse view you got. Standers clustered mostly at the edges, so as not to block the view of the groundsitters. You *could* go up to the fence and strain to get a distant view. It wasn't much.

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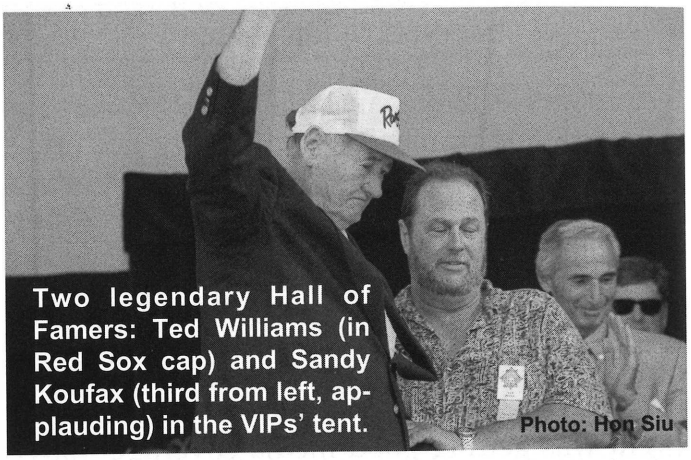
Two VIPs: Mrs. Tommy Lasorda and Detroit Tigers Manager George "Sparky" Anderson (with thumbs raised), a sure bet for the Hall of Fame, at the Induction Ceremony. (Photo: Hon Siu)



Two legendary Hall of Famers: Ted Williams (in Red Sox cap) and Sandy Koufax (third from left, applauding) in the VIPs' tent. Photo: Hon Siu

New inductees Tommy Lasorda (center) and Phil Niekro (waving) at the Induction Ceremony—possibly the happiest day of their lives. At right: Hall of Fame President Ed Stack.(Photo: Hon Siu)

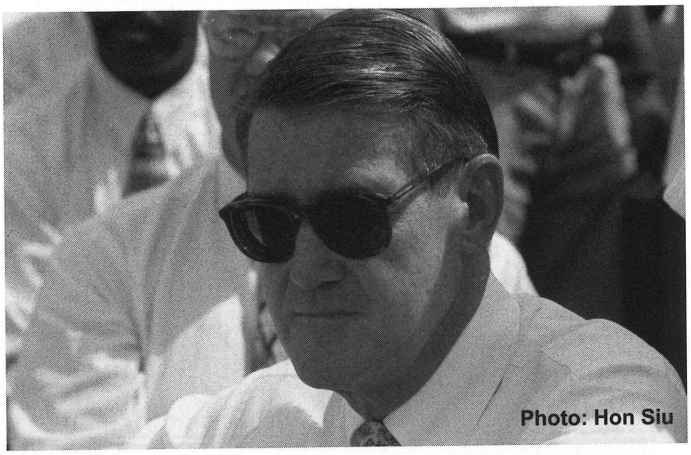
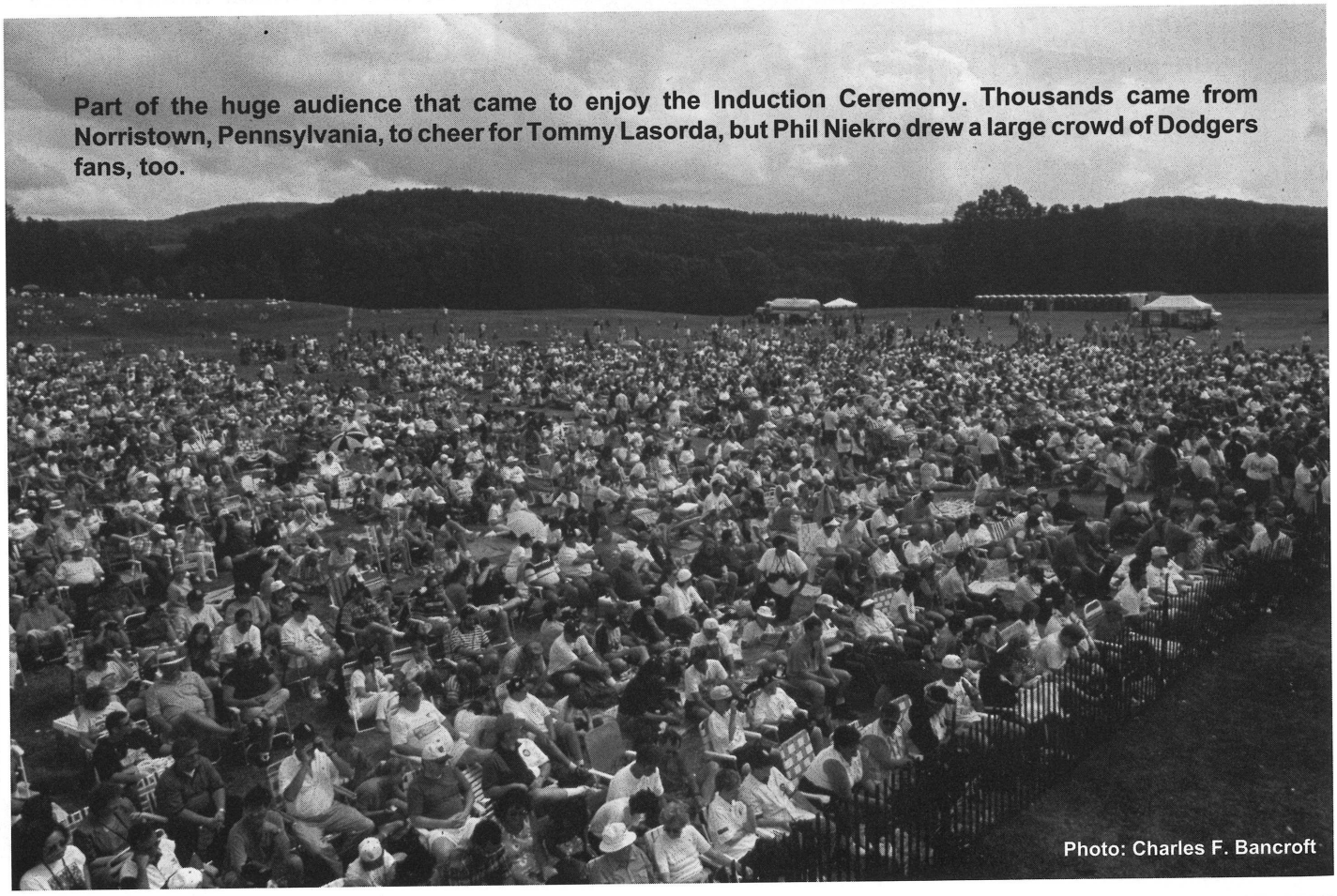


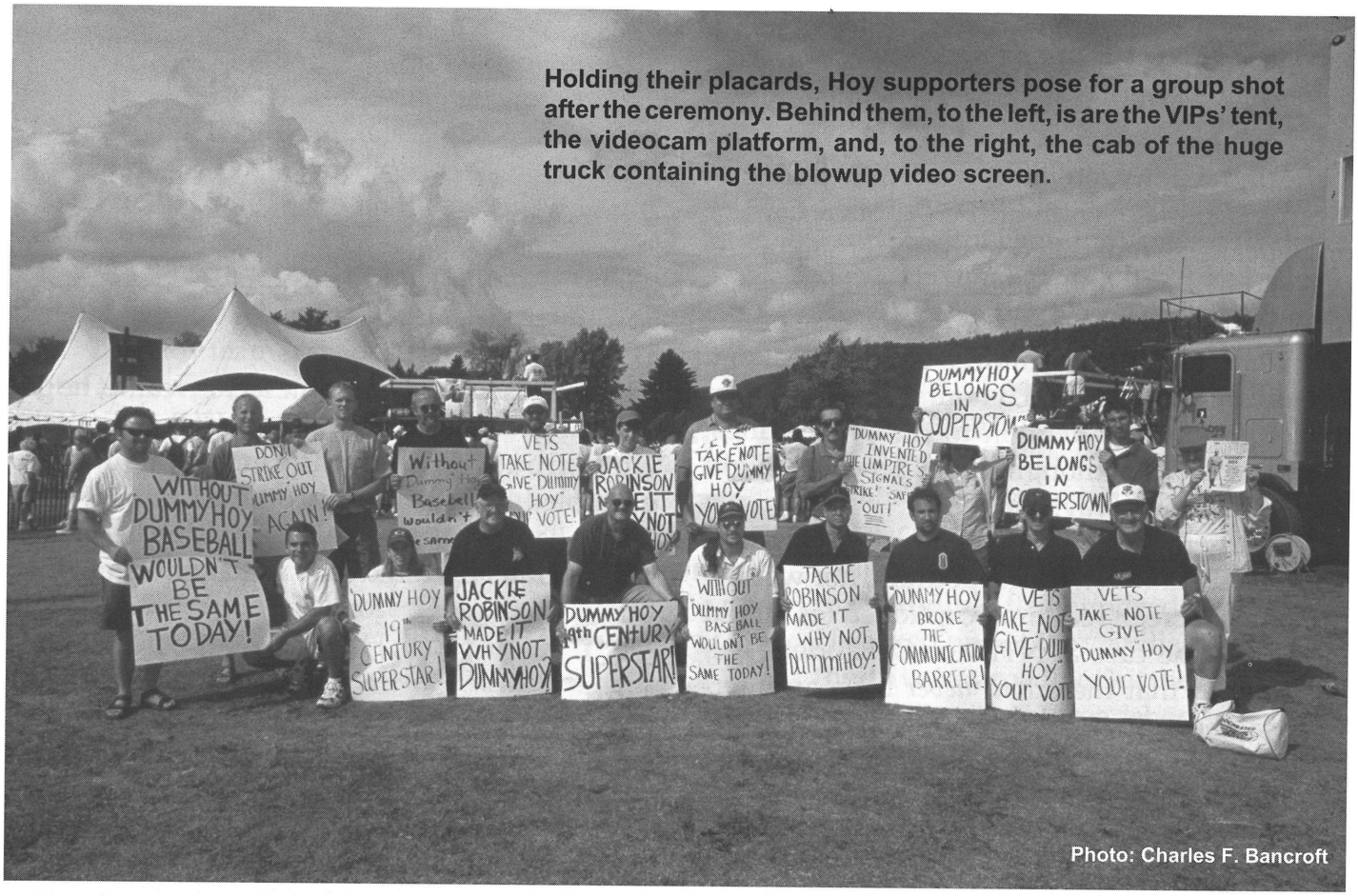
Photo: Hon Siu

Peter O'Malley, President of the Los Angeles Dodgers.



Part of the huge audience that came to enjoy the Induction Ceremony. Thousands came from Norristown, Pennsylvania, to cheer for Tommy Lasorda, but Phil Niekro drew a large crowd of Dodgers fans, too.

Photo: Charles F. Bancroft


WITHOUT DUMMY HOY BASEBALL WOULDN'T BE THE SAME TODAY!
DON'T STRIKE OUT DUMMY HOY AGAIN!
Without Dummy Hoy Baseball wouldn't
VETS TAKE NOTE GIVE DUMMY HOY YOUR VOTE!
JACKIE ROBINSON MADE IT WHY NOT HOY?
VETS TAKE NOTE GIVE DUMMY HOY YOUR VOTE!
"DUMMY HOY INVENTED THE UMPIRES SIGNALS "STRIKE" "SAFE" "OUT"
DUMMY HOY BELONGS IN COOPERSTOWN
DUMMY HOY BELONGS IN COOPERSTOWN
"DUMMY HOY 19th CENTURY SUPERSTAR!
JACKIE ROBINSON MADE IT WHY NOT DUMMY HOY?
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"DUMMY HOY BROKE THE COMMUNICATION BARRIER!
VETS TAKE NOTE GIVE DUMMY HOY YOUR VOTE
VETS TAKE NOTE GIVE "DUMMY HOY YOUR VOTE!

Holding their placards, Hoy supporters pose for a group shot after the ceremony. Behind them, to the left, is are the VIPs' tent, the videocam platform, and, to the right, the cab of the huge truck containing the blowup video screen.

Photo: Charles F. Bancroft

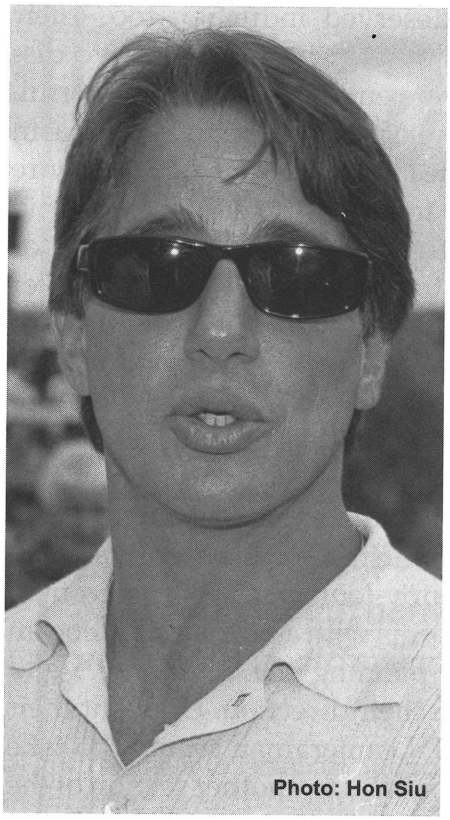
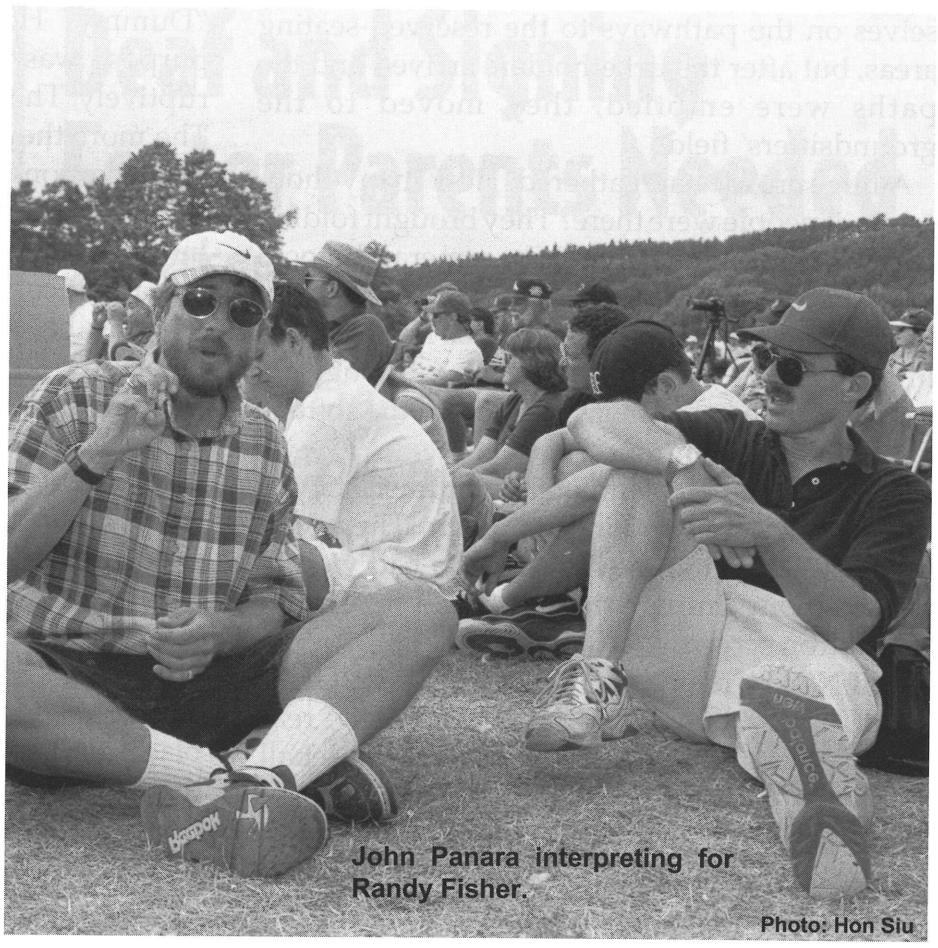


Photo: Hon Siu

Oscars Night for baseball fans: Actor Tony Danza was one of the notables attending the ceremony.



John Panara interpreting for Randy Fisher.

Photo: Hon Siu

projection screen on its right side was parked on the softball diamond towards the left edge of the field. It gave groundsitters a blow-up view of the proceedings.

The Induction Ceremony was rather like an awards banquet—without the banquet. One by one, speakers were called to the lectern to talk—expressing their gratitude and recalling some high points of their careers, or, in the case of Fox and Wells, relatives or children did the speaking, I guessed. It took a good 3 hours. The Hoy team didn't pay much attention to the proceedings, except when they thought the videocams might be pointing their way.

Needless to say, there was no sign-language interpreter stationed on the podium, nor was the Jumbotron screen real-time-captioned (as would have been the case at NTID or Gallaudet). Bob Panara said that there had *never* been an interpreter at the Induction Ceremony. So as far as the National Baseball Hall of Fame is concerned, deaf people are still invisible.

Members of the Hoy team carried their placards so that attendees could see them, and distributed broadsheets too. At first, they stationed themselves on the pathways to the reserved-seating areas, but after the ticketholders arrived and the paths were emptied, they moved to the groundsitters' field.

A huge crowd had gathered. How many thousands of people were there? They brought folding beach chairs, blankets, coolers, cameras, binoculars, and umbrellas, and staked out their territories behind the fence, picnic-style. They formed impromptu rows, so it was possible (although not easy) to cut through them to get from the softball diamond to the entrance.

They seemed to be a notably enthusiastic but polite, patient, even kindly, bunch. They were true fans—braving the heat to get a bad view of the ceremony through the fence, or watching the Jumbotron screen.

Phil Niekro had plenty of supporters: "OHIO VALLEY SEZ BOUT TIME PHIL NIEKRO" read one placard; the "O" in "BOUT" was a baseball. Another: "318 WINS/3,342 K's/WAY TO GO PHIL." A couple of enterprising fans even made a colorful "ESPN" banner ("EXTRA SPECIAL PHIL NIEKRO") out of a white gym towel. The crowd saw them on the Jumbotron screen.

Tommy Lasorda was undoubtedly the best-known inductee.[3] He drew a large chunk of the crowd. The Rochester **Democrat & Chronicle** reported that 38 busloads of fans had come up from Lasorda's hometown of Norristown, Pennsylvania. And they, too, carried placards and banners ("NORRISTOWN LOVES TOMMY LASORDA!" and "WELCOME HOME TOMMY!").

When Lasorda's turn at the lectern came, he got a rousing response from the crowd. But one of the Hoy group (who shall remain nameless) grumbled, "The hell with Tommy Lasorda!" Not that he had bad feelings for Lasorda, but he wanted the Veterans Committee to quit bypassing Hoy.

A MESSAGE FOR THE MEDIA— AND THE MASSES

Pickets normally protest something. The Hoy team wasn't protesting the inclusion of any inductee; they just wanted people to see that "Dummy" Hoy deserved induction too. Their purpose was positive. They didn't behave disruptively. They were enthusiastic, even cheerful. The more they saw of the spirit and enthusiasm and devotion of the Hall of Fame crowd, the more they wanted Hoy to be a part of it. They had no intention of souring the induction experience for any attendee, but to stimulate interest in a player who has been unjustly bypassed for the Hall of Fame. And some of the people who saw them did seem genuinely curious about Hoy. A few approached and asked if they could have more handouts. The Hoy team gave them plenty.

Of course, they wanted to gain as much media exposure as possible. In the mid-afternoon heat, they spotted a happy-looking CNN cameraman walking the platforms with a big black videocam on his shoulder, panning the crowd . . . and aiming the lens in their direction. Up went their placards! The CNN cameraman seemed to take them in. Then he panned to another section of the crowd. The placards went down. Then he returned and the placards went up again, but he gestured as if to say, "Okay, okay, I already got

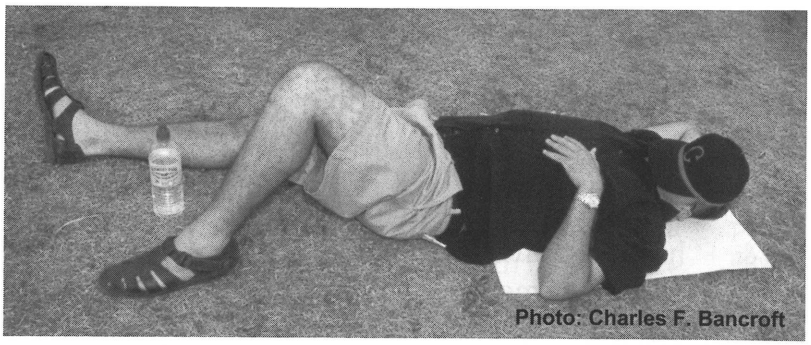


Photo: Charles F. Bancroft

What with the heat and stress of rallying for the cause . . . an exhausted Hoy supporter from Queens takes a break.

you!" The Hoy team considered it a long shot if they'd get on any station's news, but they figured that they might as well try.

Joey Wujciak said, "When I was in the eighth grade, I was assigned to do a project on someone who had made an impact on history, and I chose 'Dummy' Hoy. I visited the Findlay Hall of Fame and the Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame, where he was inducted. But he should be inducted here, too!"

Robert Traina had participated in a heated letter exchange in **Baseball Weekly** a few months ago. After he compared Hoy to Phil Rizzuto, one of last year's Hall of Fame inductees, a reader in New Haven had pooh-poohed Hoy's case, dismissing his record as "mediocre" and "unimpressive."[4] "That made me *so mad!*" said Robert, holding the "angry" sign for emphasis, his eyes blazing. More education is needed!

They all wanted to come back to Cooperstown next year—celebrating!

Randy Fisher wanted to find some way to reach the members of the Veterans Committee, who were right up there on the podium, a few hundred yards away. He asked one of the "civilian" guards at the driveway roadblock if the Hoy people could distribute broadsheets to them. After pondering this a bit, he replied that no, they would be leaving immediately afterwards, and if Randy wanted to com-

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municate with them he'd have to write to them. (Which Randy and the others had already done.)

Randy thought about that and returned to the diamond to talk with the others still there, then went back to the driveway and asked the man if there was *anything* he could do to help. The man patiently wrote, "They will get right on the bus & this is an inop[p]ortune time."

As he left the driveway, Randy looked towards the tent and said, "So near!" "And so far away," I added. The Hoy team didn't come near the Veterans Committee. Nonetheless, after the ceremony was over and the crowd was packing up and leaving, they gathered near the driveway and held up their placards so that passengers sitting at the righthand windows of the chartered buses (which included at least some VIPs and Veterans Committee members) could see them.

A TOKEN OF SUPPORT

Randy had another suggestion: after the ceremony was over, why not pose for a group photo holding the placards? The "Dummy" Hoy Committee could then send the photo to members of the Hoy family to show their support. Great idea!

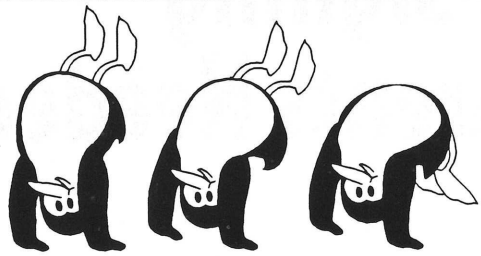
They got that group photo, all right, with several Hoy boosters and their placards. (Those who weren't in the photo had already left.) Then they hung around for a while, talking (the national Deaf pastime).

THE LONG ROAD AHEAD

After taking a shuttle-bus back to town, they explored the "Baseball Nostalgia" shop in front of Doubleday Field and walked around a bit, took some photos, and said their long goodbyes.

Doubleday Field had real turf, grass that looked like kelly-green velveteen, and simple wooden benches, painted light gray. And no lights. The field was silent and still, waiting for tomorrow. Bob Panara explained that *A League of Their Own* had been filmed there. The story of women in baseball is another "hidden" part of sports history, long untold . . . until recently. Bob's wife

APP



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Shirley had been a terrific softball player. Deaf women in baseball—what story is hidden there?

The Hoy team didn't get to see any of the exhibits. Induction Day is the worst possible time to visit the Hall of Fame anyway. Admission isn't cheap, and there wasn't much point in buying a ticket for a half-hour whirlwind tour; they were tired, sunburned, and anxious to get back. The Museum is open most of the year. To get the most out of the experience, you need to set aside lots of time, preferably on a day when Cooperstown is relatively uncrowded. Bob said, "It quiets down two weeks after Labor Day." And this is the kind of place you definitely want to come back to.

Especially to celebrate.

They have a long road ahead, but they're aiming for victory.■

Deaf Life by Linda Levitan

I wish to thank the Committee for "Dummy" Hoy and the other members of the "rally" team for their input and their company. I apologize in advance if I have overlooked anyone's name.

NOTES

[1] Scott Pitoniak, who wrote a detailed article about Cooperstown and the Hall of Fame in the August 3 **Democrat & Chronicle**, also interviewed Bob Panara about the campaign to have Hoy inducted. This was published as a cover story in the March 5 **Democrat & Chronicle** (just before the 1997 inductees were announced). The August 3 article didn't say anything about Hoy or the rally.

[2] Baseball doesn't really have an "inventor." And it isn't an entirely American creation. It evolved from the traditional English games of cricket and rounders. No one knows who first played "baseball." But there is evidence that a form of it was being played as early as 1832.

David H. Martinez in **The Book of Baseball Literacy**, cites John Thorn, co-editor of **Total Baseball**, who has discovered that Daniel "Doc" Adams played a much greater role in the development of baseball than had been previously thought. Adams began to develop and standardize many of the rules in 1840, while serving as president of the New York Base Ball Club. In 1845, he and Alexander Cartwright helped found the New York Knickerbockers, the first organized baseball club that played with a set of official rules. Previously, Cartwright was credited with having set the bases 90 feet apart and the pitching box 45 feet from home plate, and establishing a 9-inning game—but Adams, not Cartwright, deserves credit for this. Adams, who remained active in New York baseball after Cartwright moved West, continued to refine the rules.

The Knickerbockers used an old cricket playground, "Elysian Field," in Hoboken, New Jersey (just west of Manhattan across the Hudson River). The first recorded baseball game was played there on June 19, 1846. If you want to pinpoint the "birthplace of baseball," it's on the grounds of a plant belonging to the H.J. Heinz Co. (of ketchup fame). As far as I know, there is no monument or plaque marking the site of the Elysian Field, and no pilgrimage of fans!

[3] Bob Panara notes that "Lasorda" is Italian for "the deaf one" (feminine form). Could Lasorda have had a notable deaf ancestor?

[4] See "'Dummy' Hoy Campaign: Update" and "The debate heats up!" in the June "News Briefs," pp. 28-30. Rizzuto was an okay but not outstanding shortstop. He has undoubtedly made a bigger contribution to the sport as a broadcaster. David H. Martinez, in **The Book of Baseball Literacy** (Plume/Penguin, 1996), notes that the Veterans Committee has a checkered voting record. All in all, they have made some excellent choices and some bad ones. Some lesser-qualified players have been voted in while more qualified ones have been bypassed. As Martinez observes: "The recent selections of Phil Rizzuto, Bobby Doerr, and Red Schoendienst—while *not* the committee's worst-ever choices—also illustrate how players with friends on the board can receive the honor while players with better credentials have to wait outside." No kidding.

Rizzuto, by the way, is a supporter of Fanwood. (See "Fanwood says 'muchas gracias' to supporters," September 1992 "News Briefs.")

...A

ABAD

The acronym game: Deaf

✏ *It can be a real challenge in the to "fix on" an effective name and acronym for a new Deaf Sports organization. (Virtually all incorporate the word "Deaf" in the name and the initial "D" in the acronym. The name and acronym have to present a strong, easily recognized "picture." Choosing a name or acronym that doesn't "mesh" shows the organization in a bad light by unintentionally creating a negative image. There are too many "eyesore" acronyms floating around—clumsy, unwieldy, and simply detracting from rather than enhancing the image of the organization they represent. What happens when the chosen acronym scores against the organization?—Editors*

As published reports note, representatives from the American Athletic Association of the Deaf (AAAD), the recently-formed National Deaf Sports Association (NDSA) and its two "breakaway" national organizations, the American Basketball Association of the Deaf (ABAD) and National Softball Association of the Deaf (NSAD), met in Austin from May 31 to June 1 and signed a "Letter of Intent," the first step in trying to achieve some sort of unity in the fragmented Deaf Sports world. It was the best sports news many of us have received in a long while.

I've been cautiously optimistic. I interpret it as a positive although tentative signal. It's a step towards unity—something we badly need restored to the Deaf Sports scene. We need to polish up the tarnished image of national Deaf Sports, and to bring the fans back. The four Deaf Sports associations are, we hope, making genuine progress in getting back onto the right track. I'm sure that all, if not most, of us eagerly looked forward to the resolution of this "American Deaf Sports civil war," an end to the war of words, the angry and accusatory messages flying back and forth from all sides through the media (print and E-mail), and the disruption it has caused in our organized-sports calendar. What's been happening lately is quite encouraging, and we're frankly relieved. It's time for the fans, athletes, coaches, and sports leaders to move onwards—together. We're wary—but hopeful.

My foremost concern is that the two national sports organizations (for softball and basketball) should have a strong image and credibility. Good name recognition is a vitally important part of this image, considering public perception and the importance of undertone (hidden words in the acronym, etc.).

Back in 1992, on a weekend early in February, the AAAD held an *ad hoc* committee meeting in the Gallaudet University Student Union to discuss naming the spin-off NSOs for basketball and softball. Quite a few prospective names were tossed around; various acronyms were toyed with. Two names emerged: National Basketball Association for the Deaf (NBAD) and National Softball Association for the Deaf (NSAD).

I pointed out that the National Basketball Asso-

ASAD Sport Organizations

ciation (NBA) had already trademarked its familiar name and logo, and that "NBAD" wasn't a good idea since it sounded and looked so similar to "NBA." I also gave a brief history of how the AAAD got its name—a parallel situation. When it was founded in 1945, it was originally called the American Athletic Union of the Deaf (AAUD). Two years later, the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States (AAU) intervened and recommended a name change to avoid confusion, since the acronyms "AAUD" and "AAU" were so similar. One acronym was liable to be misread as the other by the sports-reading public.

Again, I warned the others that "NBAD" and "NSAD" were "eyesore acronyms" and would promote not the strong public image they sought, but mockery. My plea went unheeded; my warning was dismissed. As the noted comedian Rodney Dangerfield always says, "I don't get no respect!"

The time came, however, when I was *so* elated in vindication. In May 1993, James W. Revell of the AAAD wrote to the NBA to ask if there was any possible conflict involving the proposed use of "NBAD," since both names were so similar.

In a formal response dated May 28, 1993, John T. Rose II, NBA Vice President and General Counsel, denied permission for the AAAD to use "NBAD," tactfully explaining that the similarity in names would cause confusion, and, moreover, that the acronym "NBAD" would have an undesirable connotation:

> We appreciate your consideration in asking our permission before switching to the new name "National Basketball Association of the Deaf" and acronym "NBAD." We have carefully considered your request, and, as we discussed with Dr. [*sic*] Shirley H. Platt (who sits on your Board), we regret to report that we are not able to authorize this use of our name.
>
> The name "National Basketball Association" and acronym "NBA" are very important trademarks which we must take a great care to protect. Permitting other associations to use similar names or acronyms, would weaken the distinctive character of our trademarks and, in this case, might mislead people into assuming a connection between your Association and ours, when no such connection actually exists. It also seems [worth] noting that your use of the acronym "NBAD"—which includes the word "Bad"—might not be in the best intent of your organization.

Well, Mr. Rose summed it up nicely—slam dunk!

As a result, the name "National Basketball Association of the Deaf" disappeared for good. The former AAAD basketball association has since gone through two name changes: "Deaf Basketball Association" (DBA) and the "United States of America Deaf Basketball, Inc." (USADB), which

is its current name.

For the record, there is another basketball association currently called the "American Basketball Association for the Deaf" (ABAD), the "breakaway" organization formed just over two years ago by the alliance of eight regional presidents (in defiance of the AAAD). ABAD is allied with the "National Softball Association of the Deaf" (NSAD).

To express the Deaf perspective, I'm going to play devil's advocate for a moment. (And, yes, I know that NBAD technically doesn't exist anymore.) Consider how the three inappropriate acronyms—NBAD, NSAD, and ABAD—could be interpreted in ASL: *Notoriously Bad*, *Notoriously Sad*, and *Absolutely Bad!* What kind of images are projected here? I rest my case.

As the modern adage puts it, so unequivocally: "One ounce of image is worth a ton of ability!" That certainly applies to making the most effective use of acronyms in publicity, promotion, and marketing in American mainstream sports—and the American Deaf Sports culture as well.■

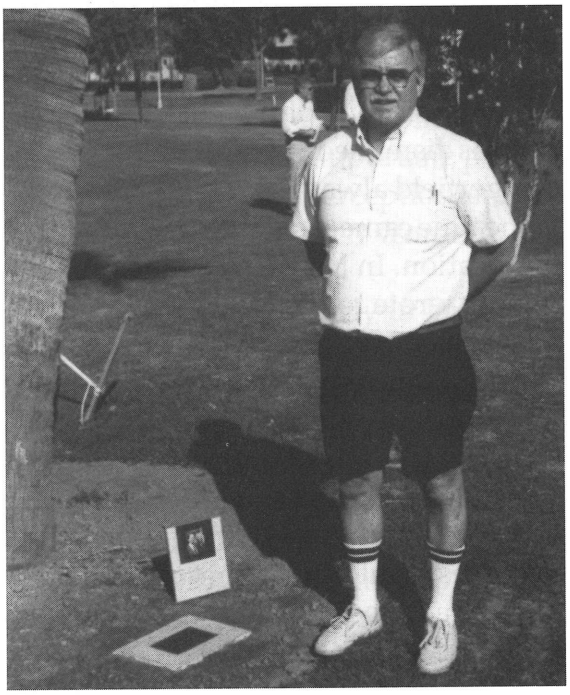
Bill Davidson
Arcadia, California

✏ A native of Albany, California, Bill Davidson is a veteran athlete, sports leader, and AAAD Hall of Famer. He was an outstanding runner (middle-distance and cross-country) at Gallaudet College ('63), and a member of the U.S. Track Team at the 1961 WGD in Helsinki, Finland. He has been employed as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in the Pasadena district for nearly 20 years. Long active in AAAD and civic affairs, he was the first WGD athlete to join the AAAD Administrative Board, helped found the American Deaf Volleyball Association, served as an officer in FAAD and NWAAD, was AAAD Volleyball Commissioner for 6 years, and helped form the basketball and softball NSOs. In 1994, during the 50th National Basketball Tournament in Akron, Ohio, he proposed the name "United States of America Deaf Basketball, Inc." (USADB). This organization remained affiliated with the AAAD. He was inducted into the 1995 AAAD Hall of Fame as a Leader/Sportswriter. He says, "I am a very active bystander on the sideline in the Deaf Sports soap-box opera!"

Correction: In the article "AAAD Update: A step towards unity," (July 1997 "News Briefs, pp. 24-25), the name "United States of America Deaf Basketball, Inc." was erroneously given as "United States Association of Deaf Basketball." (See item #5 of the "Letter of Intent," p. 24, right column.) It *is* the same organization. Thanks to Mr. Davidson for calling this to our attention.

TOP
With Coach Thomas Olaf Berg, as a Games Director, representing the 1985 WGD Committee, April 1982.

RIGHTBOTTOM
At the NCOD Open House, September 1989.



RIGHTTOP
With wife Ellen at the April 1995 AAAD Hall of Fame Banquet when he was inducted.

Beyond the Envelope

(ONE COLUMNIST'S OPINION)

Dazzle Mine Eyes

The cochlear-implant issue is an old issue, but it has gotten renewed interest in the press and in the Deaf community, thanks to an upgraded cochlear-implant model being presented for approval by the federal government and the Ashley Yount story reprinted in the pages of **Deaf Life's** April and May issues. Some readers may remember my first column on cochlear implants (June 1995), and I will not cover the same old ground again by simply repeating my position on implants (which was done in that 1995 column). What I will do is highlight a few points out of the Yount story that I consider worthy of discussion (and my time!), and expound in each column over the next few months.

Today I want to call your attention to this sentence found on page 12 in the May issue of **Deaf Life**: *"Gayle developed a program called the Developmental Approach to Successful Listening—DASL, pronounced 'dazzle.'"* For the benefit of readers who may not have read the Ashley Yount story, DASL is a speech-training program developed by an audiologist (Gayle Stout).

In reading the Yount story, I was struck by the systematic, business-like approach that the medical and audiological communities take towards their joint goal of making sure that deaf children are introduced to speech training and cochlear implants as early as possible. These people (such as Gayle Stout) approach speech training and cochlear implants as if they are products to be sold. Good salespeople know that in order to sell a product, they must be well-informed about the product and market the product to the customer in such a way that it would almost certainly result in a successful sale, and importantly, the customer has to be very satisfied with the product to take the time to recommend it to others, resulting in even more sales.

Those doctors and audiologists have taken on the role of salespeople to push cochlear implants and speech training, and as we all know, they've been pretty successful, judging by the ever-increasing numbers of implanted deaf children.

Obviously, to counteract this, the Deaf community will need to come up with marketing strategies to sell American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf Culture to customers (hearing parents, oral-deaf children, etc.). Not being the one to ignore the needs of the Deaf community, I have taken the time to come up with at least a few nifty catchwords that, I proudly yet modestly think, are as good as "DASL" [dazzle]"!

- *aslant:* slanting; at a slant. Possible marketing example: "ASL: Lean in the right direction—take ASL and go ASLant towards a richer and colorful culture!"

- *ashlar:* a block of stone. Possible marketing example: "ASL: As solid as AShLar! Never fails to astound! Never fails to entertain! Never fails to communicate!"

- *Aslan:* the name of the lion king in C.S. Lewis' **The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe** series. Aslan rules over the land of Narnia, an enchanted kingdom that can only be reached by magical means, or through a certain wardrobe in a certain house. Possible marketing example: "Take ASL and go on to Narnia, a land of enchantment, where everyone understands each other. As ASLan wisely says: 'Be just and merciful and brave. The blessing is upon you.' With ASLan's blessing, ASL signers will be twice blessed!"

What? What's that you say? Do I see snickers and grunts of disgust there? Well, *excuuuse me*! I challenge you to come up with something that's even better than the ones I've come up with here! Remember, the future of our Deaf community is at stake!

How about "RASL-DASL" (razzle-dazzle): "real ASL, definitely ASL"? —Editors

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Deaf Life Michele Listisard, an alumna of MSSD and SUNY-Albany, now works as a Youth Programs Coordinator for the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). She is also the current scheduling agent for Miss Deaf America. When not working for the NAD, she can be found at those monthly meetings as a member of Gallaudet University's Institutional Review Board. Her husband, two dogs (one deaf Dalmatian and one hearing Husky mix), books, magazines, and Monty Python all are a big part of Michele's life and provide her with plenty of comic relief.

One Reader's View

WHAT IF....

I break the world down into two different kinds of people — Teaf people and t-paths. T-paths communicate in a way I don't understand. They communicate telepathically, directly from brain to brain or something like that. I am Teaf and I don't have that ability. I communicate with what they call AEL — American English Language. I just call it English. Their language is called Telepathy. The difference is that my language is spoken and theirs is not. Sometimes I can understand a little bit of what they are trying to communicate to me. I have friends who are good at brain-reading and they can sometimes understand about forty percent of what .the t-paths are trying to communicate.

I don't socialize with t-paths very often for two main reasons. The first reason is that most of them haven't taken the time to learn my language. The other reason is that when I was in school my teachers were t-paths. They called my language "the speech" and they said it wasn't really a language. They forced me to try to use their language. When I used my language to communicate — when I spoke English — they would slap my face. They asked how the sounds we made when speaking could possibly be a language. They said the sounds we made were disgusting, crude, and bizarre, and that the only true languages were those that were communicated directly through telepathy. They required my friends and I to try to use their language when we communicated with them and also when we communicated with each other They did this in spite of the fact that we were able communicate very, very little, if at all, that way. They called the way they taught us "mentalism." Mentalism was supposed to make us "normal" t-paths. Never mind the fact that we were already normal — we were normal Teaf people. The reason they could do that is that there were more t-paths than Teaf people and they had all the political power. If we were in the majority then they couldn't treat us that way. So, because of all of that I just don't feel comfortable around t-paths. Some of them are nice enough though, and have even taken the time to try to learn our language.

The t-paths tried to teach Teaf kids with mentalism for about 100 years. Mentalism never worked. All of the Teaf kids grew up uneducated because they couldn't understand what their teachers were saying to them. But then, uneducated Teaf kids were what the t-paths really wanted. They wanted this because uneducated Teaf kids couldn't grow up and become teachers of Teaf kids and take away the t-paths' teaching jobs. I'm sure that's why it took them 100 years to figure out that mentalism didn't work.

After they could no longer hide the fact that mentalism didn't work, their next tactic to keep us uneducated and oppressed was to try to teach us with a little gem they called S.E.T. — "Speaking Exact Telepathy." S.E.T. was supposed to teach Teaf kids the language of Telepathy by using the grammar rules of Telepathy combined with English words. They used a few English words as they were, but they changed most of the English words and then they invented a bunch more words to use. When they were finished, this so-called "language," S.E.T., was an indescribably confusing jumble of words that didn't make any sense at all to Teaf people. And they were trying to use it in school to teach Teaf kids! Here's an example: "You we grns one steran uu waent will loaf nack bread." Supposedly, that means, "Buy

me some bread." If they mean "Buy me some bread," then why don't they just say "Buy me some bread"!?! Why do they have to pollute the English language with all of that crap that takes so long to say and makes it so hard to understand? Well, with S.E.T. they were able to keep another generation of Teaf kids uneducated and the t-path teachers' jobs were secure for another few years. (My friends refer to S.E.T. as Speaking Highly Indecipherable Telepathy.)

After S.E.T. failed to educate Teaf kids (or from the t-path's perspective — succeeded in NOT educating Teaf kids) it became obvious what was happening and the t-paths changed to something called T.C. (Total Communication). T.C. is another delaying tactic the t-paths are using to keep Teaf kids uneducated. This tactic is delaying the time when spoken English will be used to teach Teaf kids. They are delaying this because the t-path teachers know that when Teaf kids have complete access to their natural language — spoken English — the kids will be able to get an education. And with an education the Teaf kids can grow up and take away many of the t-paths' teaching jobs. T.C. is supposed to be "using any means necessary to communicate with the Teaf kids." Hey! I've got an idea! If you bone-head t-paths really want to give Teaf kids an education, why don't you use English! English is the only language to which they have complete access. "Total Communication" — people communicating fully — only happens when people communicate using a language. English is the only language which will give them complete access to an education. English is their natural language. Once they have learned English, second-language teaching methods can be used to teach them any other language or any other subject like math or history. If Teaf kids are taught using jumbled-up, incomprehensible communication systems like mentalism, S.E.T., or T.C., they will get an incomplete education. But, of course, as long as the t-paths delay using English in the classroom and keep the Teaf kids from getting an education, the t-paths will keep their teaching jobs secure. (My friends refer to T.C. as Tremendous Crap.)

But, as bad as all of that is, there has been one small improvement in our lives. This happened when television was "closed-voiced for the telepathically impaired." That's what they call us, telepathically impaired.

Anyway, the TV never used to have voice communication with it. What the people communicated to each other on TV came out of the TV so only the t-paths could understand it. That wasn't fair to us. And still, many of the TV programs aren't "closed-voiced." And, by the way, we aren't "telepathically impaired." We are Teaf. Saying we are "telepathically impaired" is like saying women are "masculinely impaired" or that African-Americans are "skin-tone impaired." Women are just women, African-Americans are just African-Americans, and we Teaf are just Teaf. If we have the trait of Teafness, that doesn't mean we are less than the t-paths any more than women are less than men or African-Americans are less than European-Americans. We are just different from them like women are different from men or African-Americans are different from European-Americans.

They say we are disabled because we are Teaf. Well, that's not true. We just use a different mode of communication. We use our voices and our ears, not telepathic communication. Obviously, their line of thinking is, "I can't communicate with you because I don't know your language — English. Therefore, YOU have a disability." Or, "I am too lazy to learn your language — English. Therefore, YOU have a disability." They've even taken this disability bullshit so far as to try to "help" us with brain implants. These implants are supposed to allow us to communicate using their language.

Obviously, they think so highly of their language that they think everybody should use it. Obviously, they think their language is better than our language. These implants are expensive and they don't work very well. But, I'm sure that their technology will improve as time goes on and they will eventually succeed in eliminating the trait of Teafness. When they do that, my culture and my language will disappear. In my language there is a word for forcing a culture to extinction. The word is "genocide."

Brice Alden
Simi Valley, California

Deaf Life

READERS' RESPONSES

Is the cochlear implant destroying the future of the deaf culture?

79% Yes 21% No 0% Not sure

YES—I definitely think the cochlear implant will take its toll on the Deaf community. Hearing people need to be educated about the Deaf community as well as cochlear implants. Hearing doctors today are only giving one side of the story! You can not blame the hearing parents!!! I think a course in deaf education should be a part of all pediatricians and ear, nose, and throat doctors' curriculum!!! Parents need to know both sides so they can choose. Once they are educated, I think more hearing parents will see that ASL is the way to go!!!!

NO—Hi!, my answer here is NO, not at all. A cochlear implant is just another assistive device very much like a hearing aid, which thousands of deaf people in the country already use. One important fact that is often overlooked in the emotion of this debate is the fact that cochlear implants DO NOT make a person "hearing." When they take off their implants at night, they go right back to being deaf in the same degree they were before. Again, it's just another communication tool, not a cure for deafness.

YES—I strongly believe that as long as we see more and more kids getting implants. Their identity with us will be destroyed. They will grow up with no sense of belonging. I get very upset when I found out that one out of ten deaf kids are getting implants and the number is on the rise. More and more deaf kids are being mainstreamed than before. I feel that our future is dimmed...I am sure in 100 years, there will be few thousands Deaf people left as the society is finding a way to remove deafness. I am glad to be a Deaf person. (By the way, **Deaf Life** and **DeafNation** are my two top favorites! and am happy you both are friends.)

YES—Talking with many deaf friends about your questions, most of them agreed that it is destroying our future...We must do something to tell hearing people that cochlear implant is not helping most of us. We want to be respect as people, not object that is broken. We believe that people will find out that it's not worth the suffering of deaf kids' emotion. It is shame to see that hearing parents are not getting the right information about our deaf community. We are doing fine.

NO—There will always be deaf people who don't want the implants. Besides, once you are born deaf, you can't ever hear exactly like hearing people, even with the implants. The implants can only help so much.

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❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not sure

Comments: _____

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"VIRTUAL SLAVERY"

The plight of a band of Deaf Mexican immigrants becomes big news

The story broke on Sunday, July 20, made front-page headlines, and got prime-time coverage, day after day, as new discoveries publicized, more arrests were made, and new developments. The prestigious **New York Times** gave the story repeated front-page coverage. (Unfortunately, the **Times**, and several other newspapers and TV stations, used the obsolete and insulting terms "deaf-mute" and "deaf and mute," which made a number of us angry.)

The outlines of the story are already well-known. Early in the predawn hours of Saturday, July 19, several Deaf Mexicans walked into a police station in Jackson Heights, Queens, New York, with a letter written in Spanish, asking for help. The letter explained that a large group of Deaf Mexican immigrants were being kept in near-slavery by a family-gang of bosses, some of whom were Deaf. The immigrants were forced sell trinkets in subways all day for $1 apiece, and forced to turn over all their earnings to the bosses. They were mistreated, beaten, terrorized, and forced to live in incredibly crowded, squalid conditions.

The police promptly raided the two single-family apartment houses where the Deaf immigrants were living, and found dozens of men, women, and children jammed together, sardine-style, on mattresses and bunkbeds. They brought them to the 115th Precinct for questioning, and scrambled to locate interpreters. It was a problem—they communicated in a variety of modes: Mexican Sign Language, ASL, home signs. Their numbers were originally given as 62, later 55. There were 10 or 12 children. Four of the women were pregnant.

They had met each other at several schools for the deaf in Mexico and had been smuggled into the U.S. by the bosses and their associates, lured by promises of a good job and a better life. Once they got to the Promised Land, their identification papers were taken away from them, they were jammed into the two tiny apartments, and forced to work all day selling trinkets—keychains with miniature baseball bats and balls or tiny currency bills, pens—with tags they had attached reading "I AM DEAF." Thousands of dollars in stacked $1 bills—the proceeds they were forced to turn over to their bosses—were found in one of the apartments. If they didn't sell enough trinkets and bring home enough dollar bills ($50 to $100 each day), they were beaten.

Were they legal or illegal immigrants?

The Immigration and Naturalization Service planned to ship them to a detention center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. But Mayor **Rudolph Giuliani** intervened, refusing to turn them over. He placed them under City jurisdiction. He told the media that he wanted them to stay in New York until their legal status had been determined. Most turned out to be "illegals."

As for the 55 rescued immigrants, they told doctors their

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stories, venting their rage at their brutal captors. But they quickly learned that America was a land of kindness and generosity, too. The local Deaf community, including the Lexington School for the Deaf, got involved, collecting clothing, books, and toys for them. The NAD appealed to the Department of Justice to let the Mexicans stay.

They were originally in the care of the American Red Cross. Under police escort, the Mexicans returned to their former living quarters one last time to collect their belongings. They were placed in comfortable detention in a motel in Astoria, under heavy guard by City police and INS troops. The **Times** reported that they were being well-fed, cared for by a doctor, with religious services, books, games, and Spanish-language soap operas on TV. The motel installed flashing door-knock signalers for them.

News of the scandal hit schools for the deaf in Mexico. They had heard tales of students who had disappeared without a trace. Now they knew what had happened to at least some of them.

The investigation of the "bondage ring" in Queens led to the discovery of a related ring in North Carolina. Several members of the Paoletti family were tracked down and arrested. The investigation spread to the West Coast.

Their legal status has still not yet been decided. Advocates want them to get S-2 visas, which would enable them to remain in the States if they want. Since some of the children were born in New York, they are definitely U.S. citizens. The Deaf community wants them all to stay—and to have a good future. And to make sure that this doesn't happen again.

The story continues to unfold.■

(To be continued)

NEBRASKA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF: END OF THE LINE?

On June 5, the Nebraska State Board of Education announced its decision to close the Nebraska School for the Deaf. All elementary programs and services will be terminated in January 1998, and all secondary programs and services will be terminated in May 1998. In spite of a long and consistent battle by members of the community, parents, students, and educators, the decision still stands.

The National Association of the Deaf deplores this action by the Nebraska State Board of Education, and is actively engaged in its opposition to the State plans to dismantle the programs and services at NSD. The NAD is dedicated to the goal of reversing the decision of the Nebraska State Board of Education to close the NSD, and supports the efforts of the community.

A decade ago, the NSD enrolled 200 students. Today there are approximately 35 students enrolled at NSD. This fact may have made it easier for the Nebraska State Legislature to cut $950,000 from the budget of NSD. This budget cut has led to this decision by the Nebraska State Board of Education to close the school.

The NAD communicated to the State Legislature the need to maintain, if not increase, the available programs and services at NSD. The school is an educational setting that enables the State of Nebraska to comply with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The regulations of the IDEA explicitly require that a full range of alternative placements is made available to the extent necessary to implement each child's individualized education program (IEP). The IDEA regulations further state that the continuum of alternative placements must include instruction in regular classes, special classes, **special schools**, home instruction, and instruction in hospitals and institutions. 34 C.F.R. 300.551 (emphasis added).

For many children, NSD provides the least restrictive environment (LRE) because it has a bicultural environment providing effective communication and language access. The termination of NSD's programs and services may result in depriving deaf and hard-of-hearing students of the required free appropriate public education (FAPE). This is especially true in light of a Nebraska law in which the Nebraska State Legislature discourages out-of-state educational placements for children. If there is no NSD, and no encouragement to allow children to attend neighboring schools such as the Iowa School for the Deaf, the State may fail to provide the full range of alternative placements in violation of the IDEA.

When the NAD was informed of the decision of the Nebraska School Board of Education to close the NSD, it registered a formal complaint with the U.S. Department of Education on June 26, 1997, and, at press time, was waiting for a response.

As always, the NAD will keep the Nebraska Association of the Deaf informed of any new developments, and look forward to receiving any input, information, or copies of correspondence. The NAD Law Center also stands ready to provide legal assistance to local attorneys who have questions about the IDEA.

Should you have any questions for the NAD Law Center or Government Affairs, please contact Suzy Rosen, Legal Counsel for Government Affairs, at ❒(301) 587-0234 (FAX), or ❖SuzyRosen@aol.com (E-mail).

A CRUEL WELCOME TO THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

NAD responds to the immigrant scandal

The NAD is appalled about the still-unfolding reports on the inhumane exploitation of deaf immigrants across the country.

The NAD is in contact with members of Congress and the U.S. Department of Justice to support legislation and special S-visas for the victims of criminal coercion, and has written

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno to urge that S-visas be granted. The NAD is also in support of Congressional hearings on INS handling of deaf immigrants, now being considered by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Recent news reports have revealed disturbing information about exploitation of deaf workers from Mexico and other countries in Central America. Members of a group in New York City have alleged that they were forced to work long, arduous hours selling trinkets with almost no pay, that they were physically beaten, and that their money and identification papers were taken from them.

This information came to light when some deaf men went to a police station in New York with a letter written in Spanish, pleading for help and protection from gang leaders they say control them. Police investigated and located dozens of deaf people, including children, living in deplorable housing conditions.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is now investigating the matter. Several people are under arrest, charged with state and federal crimes, and the rest of the group is being held in detention by the INS. Social services and assistance are being provided by state and local agencies, including the Lexington Center for the Deaf in Jackson Heights, Queens, New York.

"The fact that deaf and hard-of-hearing people have been subjected to exploitation and abuse is absolutely intolerable," said Nancy J. Bloch, executive director of the National Association of the Deaf. "The needs of immigrant workers continue to be a widespread national concern. Deaf individuals, like others around the world, consider the United States the 'land of opportunity.'

"Law enforcement, social service, employment, and immigration agencies must be prepared to communicate effectively with deaf individuals, and assure that they receive the same civil rights considerations as any other deaf person in this country."

Secretary of Labor **Alexis M. Herman** has announced that Labor Department officials are working with the U.S. Attorney's office, the INS, and appropriate state and local authorities to investigate the allegations of shocking labor abuses. "Many of these immigrant workers were cut off from being able to communicate with the proper authorities. It is our job now to help make sure that the facts will come out and that this is never repeated," said Herman.

The NAD Law Center has been monitoring the treatment of the deaf immigrants to assure that they are being treated properly and that police and the federal agencies involved have been able to communicate with them using qualified interpreters. These agencies have established strong contacts with the Lexington Center for the Deaf in New York for specialized interpreting, social and mental health services. As the INS steps up its efforts to locate deaf immigrant workers, it has detained other groups of deaf people in North Carolina and in Chicago. Active investigations are underway in California and other places.

The NAD is investigating conflicting reports that INS agents may be interviewing deaf persons without qualified interpreters and that the INS may not have involved appropriate experts in providing assistance on the health and legal needs of the deaf workers.

Deaf persons must be provided with interpreters and other services so that they can communicate with police, immigration and social service agencies and their lawyers. The NAD Law Center provides technical assistance in all of these areas to assure that state, local and federal agencies fully understand and implement their responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other federal laws, and know how to contact the agencies that are able to provide qualified interpreters. Communication with some of the immigrants may be complicated, based on reports that many of them do not use sign language, or use only home signs, or Mexican Sign Language.

The NAD Law Center is considering filing federal complaints against the agencies involved that may have failed to meet the needs of these people, and the NAD stands ready to assist local attorneys for deaf immigrants on issues related to deafness and discrimination.

Deaf community agencies have been active in assisting the deaf immigrants, most notably the Lexington Center for the Deaf, which has been coordinating services and aid. For information and to make donations, contact **George Friebolin** at the Deaf Mexican Aid Project, ☎(718) 899-8800 (TTY/Voice). In addition to financial donations, they are seeking Spanish-language and children's books.

The NAD is working to ensure that all agencies that have contact with the immigrants work closely with deaf professionals in immigration, law, vocational placement, and education.

"Successful deaf Americans have certainly become highly visible in the professions, business, education, and the arts," said Bloch. "But there are many other deaf people around the world who live and work in inhumane conditions, often without access to the education and employment opportunities they seek.

"The experiences of deaf immigrants in the United States demonstrate the urgent need for meaningful access to community employment, education, and government services, not only in the United States but globally as well. The NAD intends to shed further light on this travesty of injustice against deaf immigrants."

TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON THIS SITE?

Deaf people want it. The City needs it. Will Fremont get a Deaf retirement community?

Despite its large deaf population, Northern California has no housing for elderly deaf people. A few such communities exist in places cities such as Los Angeles, New York, and Ohio, with one going up in Baltimore. Most of these develop-

ments have waiting lists of up to several years. With the California School for the Deaf, Ohlone College, and agencies serving he Deaf community in Fremont, it's a logical place to establish a new housing development for deaf retirees.

For the past 8 years, Deaf Senior Housing Project participants have been working towards their dream of establishing an affordable housing complex operated for and by elderly deaf people. Through its parent corporation, the Bay Area Coalition of Deaf Senior Citizens, DSHP selected Satellite Senior Homes, a nonprofit developer and service provider in East Bay, specializing in affordable housing for the elderly, as its developer. A recent survey conducted by DSHP and Satellite Senior Homes showed an extraordinary need for affordable housing and health services for elderly deaf people in Northern California. **Evelyn Zola**, one of the founders of DSHP and now the Chair, says, "Let our vision come true in order for us to have the chance to cut the ribbon of the new complex for the Deaf retirees."

The City of Fremont has shown strong support for this effort by allocating $810,000 to help bring this dream to fruition. A small portion of this paid for the costs of the survey and other expenses of the feasibility analysis. The rest will help cover pre-development expenses such as architectural drawings and engineering studies, once a site is located.

Gerontological Services, Inc., of Santa Monica, with 15 years of professional-survey experience in the elderly-housing field, reported that the response by deaf people was three times the usual return rate. Of nearly 1,900 surveys mailed, an impressive 39% were returned, and one in four respondents said they would move to Fremont to live in a planned retirement community. Said **Carol Lamont**, City Housing Director, "This survey is an important first step in planning a deaf senior housing development in Fremont."

It demonstrates a strong need for community-based services for deaf Fremonters and those in surrounding areas. There's a high demand for independent housing, and for assisted living for frail elderly who require assistance with daily tasks. Respondents also indicated a need for skilled nursing care for the deaf, but this phase will likely wait until the other units are built.

There's general agreement that Fremont needs a housing complex designed and staffed to meet Deaf needs. Elderly Deaf people need access to housing, support and heath-care services from providers who are fluent in ASL. Communication with hearing people is a lifelong problem for deaf people and their close extended families. Building affordable housing with Deaf needs foremost in mind was the most important feature for 98% of the respondents. Close behind were concerns for residents' safety and security.

Funding this new community will be a challenge. Two-thirds of respondents over age 60 have annual incomes below $25,000 and would require subsidies to afford the new housing. Even those with incomes up to $35,000 might find it costly to move in, as Fremont's housing market is expensive and growing more so. A recently updated survey from the City showed that average rent for a one-bedroom apartment is $830 per month, and for a 2-bedroom apartment $1,015. A renter would need $34,000 annually to live comfortable in an average one-bedroom Fremont apartment. Most elderly deaf people, single or married, do not have such high incomes.

CITIBANK: STEPPING UP THE COMMITMENT

Few institutions share as interesting a history and as strong a connection as Citibank and NTID.* Since forging a partnership in the early 1980s, both have demonstrated the many benefits that come from merging corporate giving with sound educational philosophies.

In 1988, after several years of offering employment opportunities to NTID students, Citibank stepped up its commitment by creating a Citibank Endowed Scholarship Fund at NTID. Begun with a $60,000 gift, the endowment has grown to more than $100,000 and has provided financial assistance to 70 students over the past 9 years.

The employment history between Citibank and NTID goes back to the early 1980s, when former Citibank executive **Max Gould's** twin sons were students at NTID. It was Gould who recognized the important work being done by NTID's Center on Employment (NCE) and took an active role in promoting NTID to employers nationwide as a member of NTID's National Advisory Group. Nearly 90 NTID students and graduates have worked with Citibank (16 of them in the Rochester area), a legacy that continues today.

Cheryl (Messina) Mason, who received her Associate degree in Accounting from NTID in 1984, began working as a personal banker in 1989 in the Hylan Drive* branch of Citibank and now is a supervisory teller. She and several of her colleagues answer the branch's TTY line to provide direct service to deaf and hard-of-hearing customers, and she stands ready to personally serve any who enter the branch office. Citibank also provides interpreters on request for customers who wish to do business with the bank, and they can call the bank 24 hours a day.

Mason is proud to be affiliated with a bank that works to serve deaf and hard-of-hearing customers, and she enjoys providing customer service to both deaf and hearing. Thanks to Max Gould's early efforts, Citibank has offered Mason and many others like her opportunities to grow professionally. **Norine E. Jones**, Vice President for Community Relations for Citibank (New York State), says, "Max was instrumental in opening employment opportunities for NTID students at Citibank nationwide and in encouraging supervisors to participate in NCE workshops that helped them learn how to effectively accommodate and integrate new deaf employees into the Citibank environment."

Citibank's support for NTID's programs was bolstered last year through the efforts of **Peter Thorp**, Vice President for University Relations and Educational Programs for Citibank's National Corporate Contributions Department. Thorp not only

facilitated an increase in Citibank's financial commitment to the scholarship fund, he also helped create another unique opportunity for NTID.

Knowing NTID's commitment to cutting-edge technology for its students, Thorp arranged for NTID to receive a VIEWnet video-teleconferencing system. The system, which uses a high-speed telephone transmission line, a television camera, a microphone, a personal computer, and software, allows students to interview with several dozen major companies—without ever leaving campus. Thorp was aware that several major companies and many prestigious colleges and universities, had purchased VIEWnet systems. In an effort to "level the playing field," and allow more schools to take advantage of this new technology, Thorp arranged for NTID to receive it. "This system has tremendous potential to bring employers across the country face-to-face with NTID students seeking co-op work experiences and their first jobs after graduation," says **Elizabeth Ewell**, Manager of NTID's Center on Employment. "The cost to an employer of connecting for even an hour-long interview is much less than the expense of a recruiting trip. We are really pleased that Peter made it possible for NCE to use this system to open new employment opportunities for NTID students."

NTID also has been fortunate to connect with the newly established Citicorp Foundation. Thanks to the efforts of **Alan Okada**, Citibank vice president and Foundation treasurer, NTID in 1995 received a $25,000 gift in 1995 to begin its investment in distance-learning opportunities at NTID. That gift was used to purchase equipment and technology to establish distance-learning capabilities in the Student Learning Center, to upgrade equipment in NTID's Instructional Television area, and to enhance the Institute's captioning center.

In 1996 and 1997, with additional gifts of $50,000 from the Foundation, NTID plans to purchase a new Betacam system to augment° instructional development for distance learning and to purchase IBM platform technology to address the needs of business and industry in the delivery of distance-learning programs. In the coming year, NTID plans to both receive and distribute programs that will have an educational impact on a national audience of deaf students, teacher-training-program participants, and business/industry members.

Thanks to Citibank and The Citicorp Foundation, NTID remains on the cutting edge of technology, and the impressive list of "connections" between the corporate giant and the educational leader continues to grow.

Max Gould continues to serve NTID as a member of The NTID Foundation Board of Directors. Peter Thorp recently joined NTID's National Advisory Group. Both men, and both organizations, remain firmly committed to the common goal of educational access—and success—for deaf students around the world.

—**Kathleen Sullivan Smith** and **Katie Schmitz**

*Just for the record, NTID's full name is the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and it's one of 8 colleges of Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

† See "A boost for (nontraditional) women," lead story in the July 1996 "News Briefs." Gallaudet University received grants for two 2-year undergraduate scholarships last year.

† **Hylan Drive**: a busy street in Henrietta (southwest Rochester), near the highways, with shopping malls and auto dealers, etc., on either side, a few miles away from RIT campus.

augment: enrich; enhance; enlarge; add to.

N.C.N. UPDATE

The Gallaudet University Regional Centers (GURC) and the Educational Resource Centers on Deafness (ERCD) are redefining their roles in ways that change how technical assistance is provided to programs and schools, and will result in a National Communication Network (NCN). **Jane K. Fernandes**, Vice-President for Pre-College National Mission Programs (PCNMP), described the changes in a letter sent to ERCD directors in late June.

There are five GURCs, located in Flagler College, Florida; Johnson County Community College, Kansas; Kapiolani Community College, Hawaii; Northern Essex Community College, Massachusetts; and Ohlone College, California. The ERCDs are located at the state schools for the deaf in Connecticut, Louisiana, California, Iowa, and at Atlanta Area School for the Deaf and PCNMP. Previously, ERCDs had been responsible for providing technical assistance such as conference planning, training, workshops, or conducting needs assessments. Now, ERCDs will focus their energies on collaborating with the GURCs to pilot the NCN in states in which the schools are located. The purpose of the network will be to share information about best practices in literacy, family involvement, and school-to-network transition, which have been identified by PCNMP as priority areas through a process that included public input from representatives of schools and programs.

"Schools and programs should now contact the GURC for their region for assistance in planning workshops, locating resources, conducting needs and assessments, or other technical assistance activities," Fernandes said. "It is important to note that the GURCs do not have funds to support specific training or workshop requests." Anyone who would like more information about the services GURCs now provide can contact **Margaret Hallau**, director of the Office of Exemplary Programs and Research at Pre-College, ☎(202) 651-5504).

A panel of GURC and ERCD representatives has been working for several months to formulate a plan for starting the network. "The expectation is that we will start small, establishing networks in the 5 ERCD states. The ERCDs and GURCs will develop and evaluate the network in 5 states prior to expanding it to other states," Fernandes said.

Each GURC and ERCD collaboration will start a pilot project in their state; identify existing resources and their

links; allow for opportunities for feedback about any aspect of information the state communication network receives; and explore the availability of communication media in each state and determine which are the most effective for that state. The network will use technologies such as E-mail, Websites, state networks for distance education, and multimedia. Networks can enable professionals and parents to share information on programs serving deaf or hard-of-hearing students. The network will also be a way to facilitate sharing publications and information about the national priority areas of literacy, family involvement, and transition. "All interested constituents will be able to gain more awareness, cooperation, and more centralization of information in ways unheard of in the past," Fernandes said.

The network would eventually provide a direct line of communication in all states, territories, and commonwealths to key representatives involved in education of deaf or hard-of-hearing students, including the state special-education directors; the president of the state chapter of the American Society for Deaf Children and other formal parent groups; the superintendents of state schools for the deaf; the presidents of state chapters of SHHH; the presidents of state associations of the deaf; key representatives of university teacher-training programs, and other organizations in any given state.

The NCN must also be responsive to the needs of the students PCNMP is mandated to serve according to the 1992 Amendments to the Education of the Deaf Act. They are students who are "at the bottom of their class"—not doing well in school and getting low grades, are from homes where family members don't speak English, or from minority groups, have additional disabilities, or who live in the country. "The NCN will help meet the needs of states and regions because it will be a carefully focused network that will share information about best practices in literacy, family involvement, and school-to-work transition," Fernandes said. To avoid information overload, the NCN will share specific information that is most likely to have an impact on educational achievement.

GURC directors have been enthusiastic about the potential of the network. "It is my hope that the network will result in people communicating across philosophical boundaries for the good of deaf and hard-of-hearing children," said **Kathy Vesey**, Director of the Northern Essex Community College GURC. "Teachers, administrators, and other professionals need this network to share ideas and wonderful practices." **Kim Beardslee,** director of the Johnson County Community College GURC, feels the network will "provide a timely and concise mechanism for information-sharing and dissemination for a wide variety of people, as well as a way of getting information to people who might not otherwise have access to it, like parents." **Steve Larew**, director of the Flagler College GURC, said that the network will help him identify and develop resources in that region. "It will also provide a network for information and will make it easier for people or organizations to request training or information."

During the coming months, the GURCs and ERCDs will continue planning the NCN. They hope to hold initial meetings of network participants in the ERCD states by March 31, 1998.

*See "A new era of cooperation"?/Groundwork laid for National Communication Network," May 1997 "News Briefs," p. 6.

SHARE THE MAGIC!

The Shared Reading Project, which started in Hawaii, is currently underway at the Kendall Demonstration Elementary School on the Gallaudet University campus. The project teaches parents and other caregivers how to read to their deaf and hard-of-hearing children using ASL and how to develop and use strategies to make book-sharing more effective. This project uses research that describes how Deaf parents and Deaf teachers read to young deaf and hard-of-hearing children as the basis for teaching parents strategies that can make reading aloud pleasurable for them and their deaf or hard-of-hearing children. The immediate goal of the Shared Reading Project is to help parents read more to their deaf/HH children, and the long-range goal is to improve reading ability of these children.

In the Shared Reading Project, a tutor makes home visits to participating families for 20 weeks to demonstrate book-sharing strategies and how to read the story. The tutor, who is usually a native signer, answers the family's questions about book-sharing, observes a family-reading session, and offers feedback to the family. A storybook and accompanying videotape showing a child presenting a signed version of the books story are loaned to the family each week.

PCNMP has conducted a pilot test of the Shared Reading Project with families of students attending KDES. The procedures and logistics° of the tutoring component were implemented, evaluated, and subsequently modified. In the spring of 1997, PCNMP requested applications from sites interested in participating in an evaluation of the Shared Reading Project's usefulness for deaf or hard-of-hearing children in rural areas, who are members of minority groups, are from homes where family members use a language other than English, have secondary disabilities, or who are doing poorly in school.

Over 150 inquires and 38 applications were received. A selection committee comprised primarily of representatives from Gallaudet University chose five sites: The Deaf Connection in Seattle, Washington; the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, Nevada; the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Philadelphia; the Minnesota Foundation for Better Hearing and Speech in St. Paul; and the West Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind in Romney.

The results of these evaluation activities will be used to prepare the Shared Reading Project for subsequent dissemination° to a wider number of schools and programs in the fall of 1998. Last May, a site coordinator from each site attended a

4-day workshop at Gallaudet University to learn more about implementing the program this fall. The coordinators also received $25,000 each in grant money to use in conjunction with their activities. Each site will receive 160 book bags—representing 40 books with four copies of each book per site—to give children their choice of what to read. Deaf adults will help and encourage parents with sign language.

Developed by **David Schleper**, coordinator of literacy at PCNMP, the Shared Reading Project targets parents of deaf children 8 years old and under and elicits° the support of deaf adults in demonstrating how to read to them. As he worked with families, it became obvious that parents wanted to read to their deaf children, said Schleper.

"They were reading to their hearing children—they just didn't t know how to read to children who were deaf or hard-of-hearing. Even figuring out of way to hold the book and sign at the same time appeared to be an issue," he said.

Schleper sought the support of those who had already confronted the situation successfully—deaf parents of deaf children. He incorporated the literacy practices used by those parents—such as giving children a choice of reading material and allowing them to enjoy the same book again and again—into the project's structure. The project began four years ago at the Hawaii Center for the Deaf and Blind.

"Having had my own struggles in reading, I was thrilled to be selected," said **Julie Ainsworth** of the Minnesota Foundation for Better Hearing and Speech and mother of two deaf children, during a break in the training. "It's helped me learn more about what works best." **Howie Seago** from Deaf Connection was equally enthusiastic. "I've always encouraged parents to read to their deaf children," he said. "Now I realize that we must make reading a priority and actively train them. This gives some practical ways to go about it."

Other site coordinators are **Kathy Obenhaus**, who team teaches in a classroom of deaf and hearing children in an elementary school in Las Vegas; **Jessica De Haven**, also from the Minnesota Foundation for Better Hearing and Speech; **Tina Pakis**, from the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, and **Ann Getty**, from the West Virginia School for the Deaf.

The project will continue with 20 weeks of tutoring beginning at each site in October. Contact with PCNMP will be maintained through phone, E-mail, and two on-site visits.

logistics: working out the details of scheduling, traveling, visiting, traffic, etc..

dissemination: distribution; spreading around.

elicits: obtains; gains; draws out.

"POSITIVE IMPACT": JORDAN HONORED

Dr. **I. King Jordan**, President of Gallaudet University, was presented the 1997 James L. Fisher Award for Distinguished Service to Education by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) at its Annual Assembly on Sunday, July 13, in Washington, D.C.

CASE recognized Dr. Jordan for his leadership in raising public awareness of the challenges faced by deaf and hard-of-hearing students and those with disabilities and in significantly strengthening the quality of their education. The award, which is named for **James L. Fisher**, CASE's second president, honors outstanding persons who have made contributions to education of national or international significance.

CASE President **Peter McE. Buchanan** said, "CASE is proud to recognize Dr. Jordan for the positive impact he has made on the lives of thousands of students, deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing alike. Jordan's efforts have successfully brought the needs of disabled students into the educational mainstream. His dedication, hard work, and ability to overcome adversity make him an ideal model for students, as well as for educators."

Dr. Jordan accepted the award on behalf of the entire Gallaudet University community. He told the audience of about 500 advancement officers from scores of colleges and universities in this country and Canada, that the award was especially important because it indicates the extent to which the higher-education community welcomes and values the contributions of deaf and hard-of-hearing people. He said, "Since the Deaf President Now protest in 1988, and the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act a year later, deaf and hard-of-hearing people have shown they can in fact do everything hearing people do, except hear. And today, more and more hearing people realize this as well."

Jordan was accompanied to the awards ceremony by a "Gallaudet Contingent," including current Board of Trustees Chair **Glenn B. Anderson**, former chair **Phil Bravin**, Student Body Government President **David Kurs**, **Linda Jordan**, and a number of faculty and staff.

CAPTIONED CLASSES? YUP!

The University of South Florida now offers Computer Assisted Real-Time Transcription (CART) to deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office provides transcribers who use a PC laptop and attend classes with students. The transcriber inputs the class discussion on the computer and the student reads a monitor to keep up and participate more easily.

USF is the only university in the Tampa Bay area to provide CART to students. The $65-per-hour tab, which is picked up by USF, matches the cost of providing one regular sign-language interpreter (or two, depending on the length of the class) and a notetaker for a student.

SDS coordinator **Bobbi Armstrong** says that this service is used mainly by people who became deaf later in life and may not have adequate receptive sign-language skills necessary to keep up with the interpreter. USF places a strong emphasis on making sure the academic needs of deaf students are met. Armstrong says 70 to 80% of the SDS budget is used to assist deaf students.

SDS also provides notetakers, reader services, typing assistance, exam modification, sign-language interpreters, braille documents, lab/library assistance, course substitution, and adaptive equipment such as talking calculators and tape recorders. It also has services for students with other disabilities who register with SDS.

Another service, Priority Registration, allows students to develop the best possible schedule to compensate for their disability by registering on the first day of the registration period. The Registrar's office is given a list of eligible students each semester.

Background: Established in 1956, USF has a student body of 36,000, and is now among the 13 largest universities in the nation. It is home to some 200 degree programs, including the M.D. USF has won national acclaim for its research and instruction efforts in teacher education, accounting, marine science, Alzheimer's disease, public health, psychology, and other areas.

KSD KICKS OFF 175TH!

a report by **Artie Terrell Grassman**

On August 2, Kentucky School for the Deaf began a year-long celebration of its 175th anniversary. The kick-off festivities were held at Centre College in the Norton Center, which was fitting and appropriate since KSD was under the governance of the Centre College Board of Trustee for its first 50 years.

Welcoming remarks were made by **Bunny Davis**, City Commissioner and Deputy Mayor of the City of Danville; **Mike Norris**, Director of Communications from Centre College; Dr. **Harvey Corson**, KSD Superintendent; and **Eddie Johnson**, President of KSD Alumni Association. In Corson's remarks, he noted that **John Boyle**, for whom Boyle County was named, was one of the earlier members of the KSD governing board.

Approximately 500 alumni and friends of KSD attended to enjoy stories told by former staff and alumni. A performance was given by the Wild Zappers, a popular Deaf dance troupe from Washington, D.C. **Archie Harris,** a KSD alumnus who has worked at KSD for the past 23 years, is chairing the 175th anniversary committee is Archie Harris.

Background: KSD, originally called the "Kentucky Asylum for the Tuition of the Deaf and Dumb," was established in Danville on April 10, 1823. It was the first state-supported school of its kind in the nation and the first school for the deaf west of the Alleghenies.

TO RUSSIA, WITH LOVE

a true traveler's tale by Artie Terrell Grassman

We returned this spring to the United States of America from the Kamensk School for the Deaf in southern Russia. We came home with a newfound appreciation for what we have in this country. We take so much for granted. In Russia, where "things" are scarce, the most important possession one has is love for family and friends.

"Grocery stores" are not as we think of them here in America. You have no guarantee of what will be available. Oftentimes, groceries can be found in stores that sell clothes or jewelry. Most shops offer a wide variety of different kinds of goods. I wish we could have brought home the Russian spirit.

The conditions there are similar to the days of the Great Depression in our country. There are the very rich and the very poor—and few in between. There are many varied opinions about the political system. Some like Yeltsin, some didn't. Some wanted to go back to Communism, some didn't. They are suffering very tough economic times.

The Kamensk School for the Deaf made great sacrifices for our comfort. They had tiled a bathroom and installed a bathtub and an "American-style" toilet for our use. Believe it or not, we all eight shared the same bathroom and rarely had scheduling problems! The students at Kamensk do not even have showers. They have sinks and "Turkish-style" toilets in the floor with no privacy panels except for staff. A Turkish-style toilet is set in the floor with two footrests. Once a week, all of the students are taken to a local bathhouse for showers. They go home every weekend.

When we first arrived, we had to get adjusted to the food and the schedule. The food was different and definitely not "American-style!" However, we did get to visit the McDonald's in Moscow on our way home. It is the largest McDonald's in the world and french fries never tasted as good as they did that day!

The education at the Kamensk School for the Deaf places heavy emphasis on teaching speech. In the Russian language, each letter of their alphabet only has one sound whereas English has several sounds for many of the letters. Therefore, Russian should be easier to lipread and pronounce.

Class schedules are extremely different from ours. Students attend class from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and then they take a break and are served a snack with juice. Afterwards, they go back to class from 11:15 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. and then have lunch. They have no classes in the afternoon but are required to go to study hall from 5:30 p.m. until 7:20 p.m., and then they have supper. The younger students were in bed around 8:00-8:30. The older students were supposed to be in bed by 9:00 but never were while we were there. **Margarita Piskunova**, the Headmaster, said, "It isn't every day that we get to have such special guests from America. It won't hurt them to stay up late during your stay!"

Teachers work from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. Some hadn't been paid for three months when we arrived. They still come to work faithfully and look like they are really enjoying themselves. They definitely have a deep love for the students. When they did get paid, it was only $40-$50 a month, just enough to get by. Many of them walk to and from work everyday. They look out for each other. No regard is given to status; everyone is treated equally.

The Kamensk School for the Deaf has been operating for only 30-35 years. It used to be a prison for juveniles. The girls' and boys' dorms are in the same building along with the cafeteria and the classrooms. The school is funded through public and private donations, which the headmaster must go out and raise.

Everyday the students are expected to help with mopping the floors and cleaning the dormitory area, and the classrooms too. Their mops consisted of a broom handle with an old piece of clothing wrapped around it.

We participated in classes sometimes by using an English/Russian interpreter, **Dora**, and then having me interpret into sign language. Oftentimes, when we did not have Dora. That's when it really got interesting! **Dennis** (the Russian student who came here last fall) would lip-read the Russian teacher and sign in half Russian Sign Language and half American Sign Language, and then **Herbert Tackett**, a KSD sophomore, would translate into full ASL since he best understood RSL.

Sometimes, at best, communication was extremely difficult. We were constantly trying to figure out the schedule and often just had to "wait and see" what was next. Even if we were told what was planned, the schedule changed from day to day, hour to hour, minute to minute. We all learned patience.

We made two trips to Rostov to join the other 11 schools that participated in the exchange program. During the first trip we toured Rostov and visited a cathedral and then went to School 43 for lunch and a program. During our stay at School 43, we visited several classes. When we would enter their classroom, the students would stand and greet us in English. Their schools are often named by numbers, like School 43. Our second trip to Rostov was for the purpose of participating in an environmental conference and each American and Russian school partner gave a presentation.

The students have done a marvelous job of conveying the experiences we shared and encountered in Russia. It was a valuable and a life-changing experience. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this wonderful opportunity. We owe a special thanks to **Tina McFarland** who did so much for us during our stay there and who assisted in preparing the way for us.

We had to raise some funds to provide for the Russians' stay while in America and also some costs were incurred for our trip over but the travel costs were paid by a grant from the United States Information Agency. We owe special thanks to the KSD Charitable Foundation and the KSD Alumni Association for their generous contributions to this effort. Several other organizations also gave donations or held fundraisers for this purpose, for which we are very grateful.

There were six students and two adult chaperones participating in the exchange program: **Chris Harris**, **Sherry Mohan**, **Jason Smith**, **Mary Chae Sullivan**, Herbert Tackett, **Jeremiah Ziehr** (all high-school students from the U.S. KSD) accompanied by **Clyde Mohan** and myself. The program was funded through the USIA and coordinated by EcoBridge of CEC in New York. This project involves schools from the Tennessee Valley Region to participate in an environmental/cultural exchange with school in the Rostov Region to work on improvements to the environment and Russian/American relations.

This fall, another group from KSD will be going to Russia, and the Russian students will be coming to American in the spring—just the opposite of last year. The Russians requested this change since they harvest in the fall and food is more plentiful and the weather is much better. So—stay tuned as we continue to update you on our exchange program with the Kamensk School for the Deaf!

If you have a special interest or want additional information on this program, you can contact me at ❖grassman@ksd.k12.ky.us.

THANK$

Central Institute for the Deaf has received a $500,000 anonymous foundation grant to fund scholarships for deaf schoolchildren, clinical patients, and graduate students.

"We are very grateful for this extraordinary gift," said CID Executive Director **Donald W. Nielsen**, Ph.D. "It will allow us to help children, adults, and families who otherwise would not be able to benefit from our services. It also will enable graduate students to pursue degrees in audiology and deaf education at a time when these professions are in increasing demand. The endowed funds will make a tremendous difference in the lives of those we serve."

CID assists about 2,800 people annually through its school and Family Center, its outpatient clinic, its educational programs for professionals, and its ongoing research into hearing and deafness. It offers speech, language, and hearing rehabilitation services on a sliding-fee scale. Clients range from parents and their deaf infants to aging adults with hearing losses. Its scholarships to students and fee reductions to clinical patients allow it to assist all who need services, regardless of their ability to pay. CID is the Department of Speech and Hearing for Washington University. It also is affiliated with the United Way of Greater St. Louis and Washington University Medical Center. CID's day and residential school, one of only four private oral schools for students through age 15 in the country, has been recognized twice for its excellence by the U.S. Department of Education. It uses the latest technological advances and equipment and has a teacher-pupil ratio of better than 1:4.

Such highly individualized programs and sophisticated audiological equipment are expensive. The average cost for

CID to educate a child is approximately $37,000 a year, yet tuition covers less than half this amount. About two-thirds of the students receive scholarships.

Most CID graduates attend high school with hearing students and many continue their education through college and pursue professional careers. About a third of the students come from other parts of the world and participate in the residential program. Another third live with their families, who have relocated to the St. Louis area to be close to CID.

CID's Family Center, which is part of the CID School, serves children under three who have hearing loss. It teaches parents the special skills they need to communicate and provides speech and language therapy for the children. CID's clinic conducts comprehensive independent educational evaluations, which allow parents from across the U.S. to make the wisest choices about the future of their children. Adult patients receive hearing assessments, are fitted with hearing aids, attend communication classes, and get help with the ADA.

Workshops and fully accredited graduate programs are offered for tomorrow's professionals. CID's audiologists, teachers, and scientists are the lecturers and professors who teach Washington University's Speech and Hearing Department courses. Students have come from 38 countries and most U.S. states to receive graduate degrees in Audiology, Communication Sciences, and Education of the Hearing Impaired. Last year, CID graduated one of its largest classes, 24 students, who received master's degrees in fully-accredited programs.

MYSTIC MYSTERY (AND REUNION)

The Mystic Oral School Alumni Association will hold its 50th Anniversary Reunion in September 1998. Planning of the event began this summer. Committee members are looking for information and archival items: addresses of former students and graduates, and material such as photos, records, documents, and any items related to MOS.

MOS, founded in 1869 by the Connecticut legislature, was closed in 1983, presumably due to declining enrollment. (Some of its students jokingly referred to it as the "Mistake School" while they were there.)

There's a mystery involved: what happened to the archives? Since MOS closed, the school's archives, which included films, photos, and records, has been missing. None of the alumni seem to know its whereabouts. The MOS Alumni Association planning committee is trying to find information, especially all students' and staff's addresses. To develop an address list, the committee will be sending out invitation cards. If you're interested in participating, or have any useful information, contact **Cassandra Borslawskyj**, 39 Clark Hill Road, East Hampton, CT 06424; ☎(203) 239-8814 (TTY/days) or ☎(860) 267-4070 (TTY/nights); ☎800-833-8134 (Voice/Relay); ❐(203) 239-8459 (FAX); Troywar@smart1.net (E-mail).

SOARING WITH EAGLES

Rochester School for the Deaf's kindergarten class received special recognition this year. Inspired by a class on endangered animals, the RSD students raised $550 to adopt three bald eagles. Here the students present a first check for $175 to Wild Wing's director **Kim Stahler Gomborone** (holding photo). Participating students (front row, from left): **Rebecca Sterling**, **Davina Johnston**, **Danica Metlay**, **Janna DiBiase**, **Mark Speer**, and **Richard Spiecker**. Back row: **Brian Shea** of the DEC, project coordinator and teacher **Carol Fox**, and teacher **Debi Maneeley**.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, WORKSHOPS, & FESTIVALS

FUN FOR ALL

DEAF FEST: a Cultural Celebration is being held Sunday, September 21, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., rain or shine, at Somerset County's North Branch Park, Milltown Road (off Routes 202 and 22), Bridgewater, New Jersey. It's sponsored by New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week, Inc.

Tentative schedule

Exhibits open at 10 a.m.

11:30 a.m. to noon: Opening Ceremonies with honored guests

Noon to 6 p.m.: Ongoing performances with Gil Eastman as MC

Noon to 3 p.m.: Kiddie Korner

6 p.m.: Exhibits close

6:15 p.m.: Closing Ceremonies

Also available from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.: sign-language

interpreters, first aid, picnic tables, TTY for emergency calls, lots of food-and-drink vendors, numerous crafts, products, and information exhibits.

Attractions: pony rides, clowns, face painting, spin art, magician, Jacob's ladder, balloon sculptor, and more! All entertainment is accessible in both ASL and spoken English. CART and assistive-listening devices (ALDs) are available upon request. Call ☎(973) 627-6329 (TTY) or ☎(973) 586-0659 FAX before September 5 (if possible) to ask for CART or ALD.

Performers: **C.J. Jones**, **Peter Cook**, **Bernard Bragg**, and **Mary Beth Miller**.

Seating: B.Y.O.L.C. (Bring You Own Lawn Chair)!

Volunteers are wanted. Contact **Tim Cronin**, Volunteer Coordinator, ☎(609) 292-2919 (TTY/daytime); ☎(609) 292-9339 (Voice); ☎(908) 295-8214 (TTY/Voice, after 9 p.m.); ❐(609) 292-8347 FAX. Address: 204 Central Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742. For exhibit information: **Mariann Jacobson**, 58 Harrison Ave., Edison, NJ 08837. For general information: ☎(973) 627-6329 (TTY); ☎(609) 866-5366 (Voice); ❐(973) 586-0659 (FAX). NJDAW, Inc., P.O. Box 6142, Trenton, NJ 08648-0142. ✱http://www.njdaw.org. (➤)

GATHERING THE TROOPS

Project "WE CARE" Broward (Florida) is sponsoring a festival on the evening of October 8, and a concert on the following evening. A Deaf children's choir under the direction of the South Florida Theater of the Deaf is participating.

Project "WE CARE" Broward is a cooperative program represented by local musicians Celgi & Thib for the purpose of forming a "Special Talents Fund" that will benefit gifted and talented children in foster care and "special-needs" situations. This project includes the cooperative efforts of Broward County's organizations, schools, businesses and entertainers.

A variety of entertainers will join Celgi & Thib for the concert event, including Langhorn & Murray, The Official Business Band, The South Florida Theater of the Deaf, Hats To Boots, and Mad Science of South Florida. All of them will be present at the festival, to be held the night before the concert. They will be joined by other such guests as the mascots from South Florida's sport teams, costumed characters, clowns from Bubbles the Clown Company and other local troops, and a variety of stage-show entertainers doing storytelling, puppets, magic, and other such antics geared towards entertaining the children. Local businesses and organizations will come out to introduce themselves and their services to those in attendance and guest radio station; Kiss Country will be present to add their special touch to the evening's events.

The goal is to bring together all these "forces" in an effort to raise community awareness—specifically, to increase community service and volunteerism with Broward County's foster-care and "special needs" populations.

Funds raised through this project will be used to establish a "Special Talents Fund" to help support Broward County's foster-care and "special populations" foster-care children who have above-average academic abilities and/or special talents in music, dance, drama, art, and sports. These funds will be spent on academic advancement, lessons, activities, equipment, etc., for these children. 4 Children's S.A.K.E., a nonprofit organization that serves Broward County's foster-care population, will be the administrators of all proceeds raised according to the requirements established by the fund.

Festival activities will be held around Young's Circle Park in Hollywood on Wednesday, October 8, from 6 to 9 p.m. The concert will be held in the Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center, 1770 Monroe Street, on Thursday, October 9, from 7 to 11 p.m. **Barbara Weiss**, Special Projects Coordinator, notes, "Both the festival and the show will have interpreters and caption-screen coverage of the happenings, so the deaf community will be able to actively enjoy the happenings." Concert tickets are $15 a seat. For ticket information or details on how to become part of this special project's events, call Barbara Weiss at ☎(954) 746-4031 (Voice).

COPING WITH CHANGES; SHOPPING FOR SKILLS

Gallaudet University will host its annual homecoming conference, "Career Force 2002: Communication Unlimited!" October 16-17 at the Kellogg Conference Center. Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing professionals in business, government, educational, and nonprofit organizations will gather to discuss issues related to dealing with drastic change in the workplace as well as with an influx of new information made more accessible by the Information Age.

In an effort to keep pace with an ever-changing world, Gallaudet's Career Center and the School of Management are working together with alumni and others in various fields of study to give conference participants the leading edge to surviving change. Conference topics include Tips for Successful Interviews, Networking Opportunities, World Wide Web, Internet Employer and Employee Resources, Leadership Management 21st-Century Style, Overcoming Obstacles to Career Change, Multi-cultural Issues and Opportunities, and Effective Public Speaking/Professional Presentations. All topics will deal with interpersonal communication or electronic communication, two critical areas important to achieving success in tomorrow's workplace.

This two-day conference will give participants the opportunity to explore innovative strategies and concepts and to learn about new opportunities for career success. Participants are encouraged to participate in the various Skill Shop, which are specifically designed to examine selected topics in detail.

Bobbie Beth Scoggins, Ed.D., Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, will open the conference. Dr. Scoggins received her Ed.D. in Institutional Management from Pepperdine University and her Master's degree in Administration and Supervision from CSUN. She has nearly 20 years of professional experience, 7 of which have been in management positions working with deaf and hard-of-hearing populations.

Within the state of Kentucky, she has created and successfully administered a statewide TTY Distribution Program. She serves as an advocate for the accessibility of services to deaf people, actively participates in developing new legislation related to the Deaf community, and works within the state Department of Education to ensure the quality of education for deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

Dr. Scoggins, an experienced supporter of the principles of Total Quality Management (TQM) and well-versed in the principles of costs management, will address many of the issues that confront deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing people in the workplace today and tomorrow.

Pamela Lloyd will moderate a panel discussion designed to provide A forum for open discussion about issues of importance to the Deaf community. She is Executive Director of the Disability Action Center of Georgia, a nonprofit advocacy agency for the deaf, blind, and physically disabled. She is also President of the National Black Deaf Advocates organization. (See NBDA item below.)

BRIEFLY NOTED

➨ The Frederick (Maryland) Chapter of the American Sign Language Teachers Association is sponsoring a workshop on "How to teach ASL Classifiers" on Saturday, September 13, at the Frederick Community College Library Building, Frederick, Maryland. Contact FASLTA, c/o **Jackie Kanekuni**, Deaf Access Services, Inc., P.O. Box 3104 Frederick, MD 21705-3104. Or call Jackie Kanekuni at ☎(301) 696-1550 (TTY).

➨ Sign Choir Festival '97 will be held on September 27 in the Dallas Convention Center in Texas. Contact: **Becky Sue Parton**, Director, Sign Music Foundation, 1610 E. McKinney #1901, Denton, TX 76201 ☎(817) 484-8550 (TTY); ☎❒(817) 383-0527 (Voice/FAX); ❖SignMF@aol.com.

➨ The 9th annual ALDAcon—the international convention of the Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA)—will be held October 15-19 at the Radisson Aventura Beach Resort, North Miami Beach, Florida. Contact: ALDA, 10310 Main Street, Box 274, Fairfax, VA 22930, or call the ALDA Hotline at ☎(404) 289-1596 (TTY) or fax ❒(404) 284-6862.

➨ "Coming Together with P.R.I.D.E. for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children in Nevada" will be held October 24-26, in Reno, Nevada. Contact: **Michele G. Berke**, Director. Gallaudet University Regional Center, Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94539; ☎(510) 659-6268 (TTY/Voice); ❒(510) 659-6033 (FAX);❖gurcohlone@gallua.gallaudet.edu.

➨ The second National Multicultural Deaf Conference will be held November 14-16. Contact: Dr. **Michael Bienenstock**, Lamar University, P. O. Box 10076, Beaumont, TX 77710; ☎(409) 880-2322 (TTY); ☎(409) 880-8170 (Voice); ❒(409) 880-2265 (FAX); ❖mbeany@aol.com.

➨ *Management of Nonprofit Organizations Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People*, a 3-day conference, will be held at Cheyenne Mountain Conference Resort in Colorado Springs, Colorado, from Thursday, November 20 to Saturday, November 22. Contact: Gallaudet University Regional Center, Ohlone Community College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont, CA 94539; ☎(510) 659-6050 (TTY); ☎(510) 659-6268 (TTY/Voice); ❒(510) 659-6033 (FAX); ❖gurcohlone@gallua.gallaudet.edu (E-mail).

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

The 15th Annual National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) Conference was August 12-17 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. Theme: "Black Deaf Leadership in the 21st Century: Preparing the Way." There were workshops, exhibits, and guest speakers from all over the country. Over 500 participants, including 20 from England, were expected.

The conference also included the implementation of a one-week intensive leadership-training program for Black Deaf youth between the ages of 13 and 17, at Gallaudet University, August 9-17.

A welcome reception was held Wednesday evening, hosted by NBDA officers: Pam Lloyd, President; **Al Couthen**, Vice-President; **Jerry Webster**, Treasurer; and **Persis Taylor**, Secretary.

The opening session began on Thursday morning with welcoming speeches, including Mayor **Marion Barry**; Nancy J. Bloch, NAD Executive Director; and **Judy Heumann**, Assistant Secretary of OSERS, U.S. Department of Education. The two keynote speakers at the Opening Ceremony were **Claiborne Douglass Haughton, Jr.**, Principal Investigator, U.S. Department of Defense; and Dr. **Aprille Ericcson-Jackson**, Aerospace Engineer, Goddard Space Flight Center.

Some of the concurrent workshops were: "The Role of Arts in Deaf African-American Culture," "The ABC's of Discrimination," "Establishing Your Presence in Cyberspace," "Children of Deaf Adults," "Lexical Variation in Black Signing," "Building a Team Through Communication: Black Deaf Students and Interpreters."

The annual Ms. NBDA Pageant was held Friday evening. **Jamar Higgins**, Pageant Coordinator, planned an evening of elegance and exciting entertainment. There will be Eight pageant contestants represented their BDA Chapters.

The banquet and awards ceremony was held Saturday evening in the hotel ballroom. **Laurene E. Gallimore**, Adjunct Instructor in the Interpreter Training Program at Western Oregon University, was the keynote speaker. Live entertainment and dancing followed the keynote presentation and awards ceremony.

Conference sponsors were Gallaudet University, Merrill Lynch Foundation, Goddard Space Flight Center, NAD, AT&T; Sprint, MCI, Bell Atlantic, NTID, NBC-4 (Washington, D.C.), and Comminque Interactive Solutions, Inc.

A BIT OF REASSURANCE— AND A LOT OF HELP

Our 13 year-old is losing her hearing and they say she needs a hearing aid. Both my husband and I are out of work right now; we can't afford to buy one. What can we do?—F.C., Provo, Utah

We want to give a TTY to my parents for Christmas so they can call my daughter. Do you know where we can buy an inexpensive one?—M.N., Milwaukee, Wisconsin

My daughter is mainstreamed in a private school. Someone told me that we can get an auditory trainer from the school district. Is that true? How can we do that?—G.R., Piqua, Ohio

Last summer my son was very bored He is not reading at his grade level. What can we do this summer?—T.B., New Orleans, Louisiana

Our family has been learning and using ASL with our son at home and at school for several years now. We are ready to move to a new school district and they say they can't find an interpreter. What can we do?—C.L., Tampa, Florida

My husband left and I moved in with my mother and sister. They don't sign. My five-year-old son is acting out at school and on the bus. They say he is hyper and needs medication. I don't know what to do.—T.T., Bakersfield, California

Thank you for being a friend when I need one most!—D.S., Norfolk, Nebraska

I called you eight years ago when we first learned our son was deaf. You saved my life! Now we are planning to move to Reno soon. We want to check out the schools there for our deaf son. What can you tell me?—J.L., Bremerton, Washington

Over the past few months, the LEAD LINE toll-free hotline has been settling into its new home at the House Ear Institute.* Its purpose is to assist families in making confident, well-informed decisions on issues that are integral to raising and educating their child with a hearing loss.

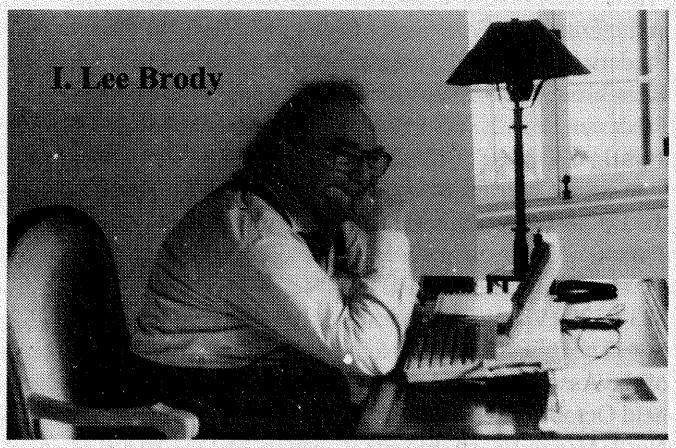
Barbara Lincoln, the coordinator of the LEAD LINE (formerly the TRIPOD GRAPEVINE), brings to the program the personal knowledge and understanding gained by raising her deaf son from infancy to adulthood. With counsel of other parents, deaf adults, clinicians, and educators experienced in deaf issues, Lincoln has compiled a wealth of information that she makes available to callers on the hotline. She listens to each request and personalizes her responses to suit the callers' needs. The LEAD LINE offers parents a link to information on many topics including hearing health, advocacy, communication methods, education, and the latest in research and technology.

Over 40% of the callers are family members concerned about the impact of deafness on their plans for the future of their children and general parenting issues. The balance of the calls are from professionals with the deaf and hard-of-hearing clients, students in the hearing sciences, and late-deafened adults.

Lincoln wrote a letter to "Dear Abby" that was published in the column (April 17, 1997 in the **Los Angeles Times**); it was titled, "Parents of the Deaf: You Are Not Alone." She described the LEAD LINE and recommended **Paul Ogden's** newly-revised book, **The Silent Garden**.

The LEAD LINE joins five ongoing community-outreach programs that are a vital part of the Institute's services to families with deaf and hard-of-hearing children. The toll free numbers are ☎1-800-287-4763 (in California) or ☎1-800-352-8888 (all other states) or ❖blincoln@hei.org. House Ear Institute's Website is ✱http://www.hei.org.

*This is where the first trial cochlear-implant surgeries were performed.



REMEMBERING A LEADER AND FRIEND

In remembrance of their founder, NY/NJ Phone-TTY is hosting "The People's Tribute to **I. Lee Brody**" on Saturday, September 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Bissinger Room, 4th Floor, Stevens Center, Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, New Jersey.

Lee Brody was long known for his tireless contributions to the Deaf community. He developed the first Braille TTY, successfully negotiated a telephone-rate reduction for deaf households; founded NY/NJ Phone-TTY, an advocacy and community-support group, NJ/NY Deaf Connection, a PC Users Group, and the first all-deaf computer class in New Jersey. He was also past president of NJ Association of the Deaf and past chairman of NJ Committee on Alcoholism and the Hearing Impaired.

As president of the spin-off company Phone-TTY, Brody

devoted much of his time to researching and developing products for the deaf such as the baby-cry signaler, telephone signaler, and the phenomenal computer hardware and software responsible for TRS currently used today. In recognition of his achievements, he received the esteemed Honorary Telephone Pioneer membership, an honor given to **Alexander Graham Bell** and only 28 others.

Invited speakers and friends will share their recollections of Brody at the Tribute. The Board of Trustees, saddened by the death of their leader and cherished friend, will offer vignettes, photos, news articles, and videos of Brody. They welcome the many people who remember Brody fondly and invite the public to join them. Thanks to the many supporters in the Deaf community, NY/NJ Phone-TTY and Gallaudet University have established the I. Lee Brody Memorial Fund to maintain the TTY archives and support a student majoring in Communications at Gallaudet University.

Refreshments will be provided following the service.

Public Transportation: From Manhattan: NJ Transit Bus 126 or the PATH to Hoboken about one quarter mile to campus. **From points west of the Hudson River:** NJ Transit and Amtrak to Hoboken.

Car: Take either Holland or Lincoln Tunnel Turn immediately right and follow signs to Hoboken, then signs to Stevens. **From points west of the Hudson River:** Follow signs to Holland or Lincoln Tunnel exit at signs marked "Last exit in NJ" or "Hoboken," and follow signs to Stevens.

The campus overlooks the Hudson River and faces Manhattan, and is two blocks east of the main thoroughfare, Washington Street. For the Stevens Center, use the Ninth Street entrance.

For further information, contact **Cliff Rowley** ☎(973) 627-8878 (TTY), **Albert Hlibok** ☎(718) 461-1185 (TTY), or Stevens Institute of Technology ☎(201) 216-5105.

HOOSIERS' HERITAGE

September 21-27 is Deaf Heritage Week in Indiana and in other parts of the country and world. It has been a world-recognized event since 1990. The World Federation of the Deaf has proclaimed the last full week in September to be Deaf Awareness Week. The NAD agreed to adopt this for our country. Most states have also adopted this. Deaf Hoosiers altered it a little bit by changing it to "Deaf Heritage Week," "because we view this as a way to recognize the culture, language, rich heritage and diversified accomplishments of our native Deaf Hoosiers."

On September 22, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services plans to have a Kick-off Celebration from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will take place in the Rotunda and the North Atrium at the Statehouse, and the Governor's Proclamation will be read. The Indiana Historical Society will have its first showing of a traveling exhibition, *Growing Up Deaf in Indiana*, featuring pictures and videotapes of Deaf people and their lives and achievements over the past 150 years. **Peter Cook**, the noted ASL storyteller/poet/actor, will give a performance along with the Deaf Studies students from the Indiana School for the Deaf. Refreshments will be served. So . . . mark your calendar for September 22.

Exhibitors are welcome to participate in this event, and display booths are available at no charge. No sales or cash transactions will be allowed, but exhibitors can take orders. Table size is 6' long; electrical outlets are available. Deaf artists and craftspeople are welcome too. Display boards are available

Deka Kloepfer, Program Coordinator for DHHS, says: "We view this as an opportunity for people, (Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing) to become aware of what services, products, and programs we have available for our Deaf and hard-of-hearing population. This also provides an opportunity for other people to develop networking for future information and referral."

For last-minute information, contact Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services at Indiana Family and Social Service Administration, 402 West Washington Street, #W453, P.O. Box 7083, Indianapolis, IN 46207-7083; ☎(317) 232-1143; ❐(317) 232-6478 (FAX).

Setting standards: DHHS has selected the first members of the Board of Interpreter Standards. **Rebecca Noller**, Staff Interpreter, says: "Our sincerest thanks go to those members of the screening committee who put in their time and hard work to make these selections. The background and experience of the candidates was impressive, and gave the screening committee plenty of material to work with. Out of 21 résumés, 7 people (all residents of Indiana) were chosen to serve on the Board, with four alternates to fill any unexpected vacancies.

The seven new Board members are: **Jerry Bass** (Greenwood), **Elizabeth Beldon** (South Bend), **Judith Cass** (Indianapolis), **David Geeslin** (Indianapolis), **Sue Holsapple** (Indianapolis), **George Perry** (Indianapolis), and **Myron Yoder** (Mishawaka).

The alternates are: **James Kemp** (New Albany), **Brenda Nicodemus** (Indianapolis), **Vonda Templeton** (Evansville), and **Evelyn Thompson** (Indianapolis).

The Board of Interpreter Standards was established as a result of community concern regarding the quality and training of interpreters. It will be responsible for writing those professional standards that will be followed by working interpreters in the State of Indiana.

IN & AROUND PHILLY

Breaking the record: During June 1997, the Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre, Inc. (DHCC) provided a total of 2,051.5 hours of interpreting services, breaking the previous highest interpreting-hour record for a month: 2,004 hours in May 1996.

Richard Morris said: "This is a very special milestone for DHCC. Credits should go to our dedicated staff especially the

two interpreter coordinators: **Lesia Richman** and **Maria Libertella**, as well as to our professional interpreters. This achievement would not have been accomplished without them. I personally thank our special customers for their continued support and confidence in our quality services."

Richard Morris, DHCC Executive Director, gave a presentation to over 50 future Deaf and hard-of-hearing leaders on "Effective Leadership for Changing and Expanding Organization" at the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of PSAD Leadership Training Program during the weekend of June 20-22 at West Chester University, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

He described common characteristics of effective leaders, emphasizing the importance of honesty, communication, delegating, and risk-taking as critical and key success factors as organizations enter the 21st Century. Using some true stories and personal experiences, Morris demonstrated the enormous difference between effective leaders versus ineffective ones in contributing to a team's success. Dr. **Frank Turk**, who was present, said: "Richard's presentation was one of the best I have seen, particularly for the Deaf community."

Know your rights: Richard Morris and his predecessor, **Lillian Hoshauer**, one of DHCC's co-founders, presented "Interpreter Issues" at the PSAD Convention on July 24 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Morris said: "One of the biggest issues is that Deaf people need to be educated on their rights and responsibilities in getting interpreters and how they can use interpreters effectively." After several people in the audience shared their personal concerns and experiences, Morris advised: "Only you know what's best for yourself. You must be proactive and assertive to take control of your communication needs. It is perfectly okay to ask for help. There are many agencies like DHCC, organizations and even ordinary individuals who will be happy to help you."

Contact DHCC at ☎(610) 534-4940 (TTY/Voice). Address: 310 Amosland Road, Holmes, PA 19043-1216.

COMING UP

open-captioned movies in the Creative Access tradition

The Lost World: Jurassic Park, Saturday, Sepember 13, around 7 p.m., and Sunday, Sepember 14, around 4:30 p.m.

Hercules, Sunday, September 14, around 2 p.m. (On Sunday, see *both* movies for the price of one!)

Place: International House, 3701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

Tickets: $5.50 Creative Access members; $6.50 non-members; $3.50 children under 12.

For further information, call Creative Access at ☎(215) 627-9271; ☎(215) 627-9571 (FAX).

BUILDING BETTER LIBRARIES: COMMUNITY INPUT WANTED

The D.C. Public Library has been holding a series of town meetings. **Robert Nichols**, President of the Friends of the D.C. Public Library Services to the Deaf Community (FLDC), spoke on behalf of the Deaf community and the need to enhance library services to the Deaf community and to get more deaf and hard-of-hearing people involved.

The purpose of these meetings is to get input from the public for the D.C. Public Library, staff, trustees, and the Federation of Friends, of which the FLDC is a member. Many people have said that want to see DCPL programs, services, and products improved, but also feel that schools, academic libraries, government offices, nonprofit organizations, and corporations, etc., should work together to help DCPL fulfill its mission.

The FLDC Board has suggested that DCPL, in cooperation with all Washington-based libraries, Deaf-related institutions, and interested corporations, establish Library Support Services for the Deaf Community to help librarians and staff provide economical and efficient services to all deaf and hard-of-hearing people, including those who have visual, physical, and other disabilities. And to their hearing family members, and to those concerned with hearing loss, and to anyone with a particular interest in sign language, Deaf culture, or history.

For a copy of "Suggestions for Enhancing Library Services to the Deaf Community at the D.C. Public Library," send a stamped (32¢ in the U.S.), self-addressed business-size envelope to **Alice L. Hagemeyer**, FLDC Secretary, 2930 Craiglawn Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904-1816.

✏ Freely adapted from a report by Robert Nichols in the **DCPL News** and **Dee Cee Eyes**; thanks to Ms. Hagemeyer for faxing us a copy. (See following item.)

BECAUSE KIDS CAN'T WAIT

a proposal by Alice L. Hagemeyer
Founder and President, Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action (FOLDA)

All children and young adults, including Deaf and hard-of-hearing, can't wait to be connected, protected, and respected. In this age of budget cuts, effective and efficient ways to serve library patrons of all ages are a necessity. Here are suggestions for each 50 states, D.C. and U.S. territories to enhance full library access by the deaf community* in a cost-effective manner.

1. Form a statewide Library Support Services for the Deaf Community (LSSDC) unit within a library or an appropriate deaf-service organization that would provide programming, training, and support services to librarians, other personnel, and their patrons of all 4 types of libraries—*public*, *school*,

academic, and *special* libraries serving government, commerce and industry, the arts, the military, hospitals, prisons, and other institutions.

2. Form a library advisory committee consisting of professionals from libraries, deaf-related institutions, and interested corporations. It would work to develop suggested guidelines and policies for libraries to assist in providing cost-effective and efficient library and information services to the deaf community. Representatives from various interest groups within the deaf community should be invited to assist in this effort.

3. If the advisory committee agrees to this proposal, then it would be an effective source of revenue for their coordinating, for a reasonable annual fee, interpreters, speakers, storytellers, and staff trainers for libraries and others. Also a cooperative purchasing program for both deaf-related materials and products for the deaf community may prove economical.

JUSTIFICATION

1. Many deaf children and young adults live at home with their family who do not communicate with them; they also do not benefit from existing library activities, especially in the summertime.

2. Ultimately, all libraries must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). 3. The increase in cost of paper-format (book) publishing and nonprofit format (videotapes) and the rising costs of technology for serving people with disabilities make it obligatory for all libraries to cooperate in resolving their money problems.

4. Delegates at the 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS) have made 96 recommendations for improving the nation's library and information services to all Americans, including those people who live in rural areas. The WHCLIS Task Force† recently announced that 5 (5%) of the 96 recommendations have been implemented, of the remaining 91 recommendations, 79 (8%) have seen progress toward implementation, and 12 (13%) have seen no progress toward implementations. The two recommendations (#6 and #95) that apply to the deaf community have seen no progress toward implementation. #6 is "Establish National Library Services for Disabled Americans" and #95 is "Create Model Library Marketing Programs." One recommendation, #20, "Improve Support for Blind and Physically Handicapped," is now in progress toward implementation but it does not apply to deaf people unless they also have visual or physical disabilities.

5. Countless deaf and hard-of-hearing people, who are recovering from various kinds of abuse or are in need of health care, have not been given opportunities in becoming independent users of the library and the Internet.

6. The American Library Association has recognized the lack of services for the American deaf community. Its division, the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), has recently developed guidelines to help all states provide cost-effective and efficient library and information services to the deaf community.

NOTES

* Here, the deaf community refers to people of all ages who have hearing disabilities, including those who also have visual, physical or other disabilities, their hearing family members, people who are concerned with their own hearing loss or that of others; and people who have a particular interest in sign language, Deaf culture, and history.

† WHCLIS Task Force (WHCLIST) is a national grassroots organization dedicated to improving library and information services, support for White House Conference resolutions, by educating and *listening to* the public about library issues, and by developing plans and enlisting support for future national-library forums.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PART OF THE SOLUTION?

If your answer is "Yes," please share this information with your state library and deaf/hard-of-hearing consumer/advocacy groups on all levels in your state—local, county, region, state level.

For more information, contact Alice L. Hagemeyer at E-mail alhagemeyer@juno.com (E-mail).

For D.C. residents, libraries and others, contact the Friends of the D.C. Public Library Services to the Deaf Community through **Janice Rosen**, Librarian for the Deaf Community. Her address is D.C. Public Library, 901 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, ☎(202) 727-2145 (TTY/Voice); ❒(202) 727-1129 (FAX).

Background: Alice L. Hagemeyer was a delegate-at-large at both the 1979 and 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Services. She is a long-time active member of the WHCLIST.

EXPLORING A RICH TRADITION

"A Century of Southern Vision: A Literary Lecture and Discussion Series," sponsored by the Fairfax County Public Library's Center for the Book, will explore the legacy of Southern writing in an accessible 5-part program beginning in September. It's offered in cooperation with the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC) and the Northern Virginia Chapter of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH NOVA ONE), and made possible through a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy (VFHPP). And it's free and open to the general public.

Accommodations such as real-time captioning, ALDs, series titles in large print, and Talking Books will be available for participants who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or who have poor vision.

"A Century of Southern Vision" will explore the development of Southern literature from its roots in the works of early

modern Southern writers, such as **Kate Chopin** and **Zora Neale Hurston**, to contemporary authors of the South, such as **Mary Lee Settle** and **William Styron**. Lecturers from area universities will lead the discussions, and participants will be able to choose one of three locations for each program: the Reston Regional Library, the Sherwood Regional Library in Alexandria, and the NVRC in Fairfax City.

The opening session in September, "Southern Writing 1900 - Today: An Overview," examines the Southern writing tradition from its origins as a regional genre to the development of universal themes such as family and sense of place that resonate in the 20th-century inheritors of the tradition. Dr. **Suzanne Jones**, professor at the University of Richmond and editor of **Growing Up in the South: An Anthology of Modern Southern Literature**, is presenting the program.

"**The Awakening**—A Southern Woman in the Victorian Era," in October, will look at Kate Chopin's novel **The Awakening**, a study of one woman's growing sexuality in the late-19th-century American South. Dr. Jones will also lead this session.

In November, "**Their Eyes Were Watching God**—Affirming Black Culture," will explore the work of anthropologist and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston, who reminded writers in the Southern Renaissance of the richness of the Southern racial heritage. Dr. **Jennifer Jordan** of Howard University will lead the discussion.

In January 1998, Dr. **Carol Manning**, professor at Mary Washington College, will present "**Choices**—Mary Lee Settle and the Southerner As Outsider." The program will look at Settle's novel about a bohemian 20th-century Southern woman who comes to learn the complexity of good and evil.

In February, the series will end with "**A Tidewater Morning**—Styron and the Southern Male," led by Dr. **Joel Foreman** of George Mason University. Styron explores one character's coming to terms with the imminence and inevitability of death—a study of a Southern man's journey through his personal history.

To register, contact Access Services at 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306; ☎(703) 660-8524 (TTY), ☎(703) 660-6943 (Voice), or ❐(703) 765-5893 (FAX). Registration forms are available at all Fairfax County Public Library branches, Access Services, and NVRC. You can also register by calling NVRC at (703) 352-9056 (TTY) or ☎(703) 352-9055 (Voice). Or register over the Internet at ✱http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/library.

Schedule

Each session will be held at the Reston Regional Library (RR), at 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, the Sherwood Regional Library (SH) at 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane in Alexandria, and NVRC at 10363 Democracy Lane in Fairfax.

Session I: "Southern Writing 1900 - Today: An Overview"
Dr. Suzanne Jones, English Department, University of Richmond
Thursday, September 18, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. (RR)
Friday, September 19, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (SH)
Saturday, September 20, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (NVRC)

Session II: "*The Awakening*—A Southern Woman in the Victorian Era"
Dr. Suzanne Jones, English Department, University of Richmond
Thursday, October 16, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. (RR)
Friday, October 17, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (SH)
Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (NVRC)

Session III: "*Their Eyes Were Watching God*—Affirming Black Culture"
Dr. Jennifer Jordan, Department of English, Howard University
Thursday, November 6, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. (RR)
Friday, November 7, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.(SH)
Saturday, November 8, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (NVRC)

Session IV: "*Choices*—Mary Lee Settle and the Southerner as Outsider"
Dr. Carol Manning, English Department, Mary Washington College
Thursday, January 8, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. (RR)
Friday, January 9, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (SH)
Saturday, January 10, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (NVRC)

Session V: "*A Tidewater Morning*—Styron and the Southern Male"
Dr. Joel Foreman, Department of English, George Mason University
Thursday, February 12, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. (RR)
Friday, February 13, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (SH)
Saturday, February 14, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (NVRC)

RR and NVRC are equipped with an audio loop, and SH has an infrared system. Headsets will be provided at each location. CART will be available for all sessions. The text of the lectures will be displayed on a TV monitor as the presenter speaks. Sign interpretation will be provided upon request.

Large-print copies of the books under discussion can be reserved at any of our library branches. Registered users of the Library of Congress' Talking Books program can contact Access Services to obtain audio tapes of the titles. All programs and reading lists will be available in large print. Braille copies must be requested in advance.

Audio and videotapes of the series will be made available for people who cannot leave their homes, and for activity directors to use at residences or centers for the elderly.

DSC CELEBRATES ITS 10TH!

The Deaf Service Center of Northwest Florida, Inc., Pensacola, Florida, is celebrating its Tenth Anniversary this month (September, 1997), "so we are combining our anniversary celebration with the observance of Deaf Awareness Week," says Executive Director **Rita W. Beal**. On September 19, DSC is hosting a reception at the Jane Noonan Center from 7-9 p.m., featuring special recognition services and guest speakers. On September 20, Deaf Awareness Day will be observed at Cordova Mall, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be information booths, exhibits, and entertainment throughout the day.

For details, contact the Deaf Service Center of Northwest Florida, Inc., 945 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 4, Pensacola, Florida 32505. ☎(904) 433-7128 (TTY/Voice); ❐(904) 438-0299 (FAX).

CHANGE OF NAME— BUT THE GOAL'S THE SAME

Deafness Education Advocacy Foundation (D.E.A.F.), the St. Paul-based organization whose mission is to promote equal access and quality of life for Deaf people, is changing its name and logo to better reflect a broader mission. D.E.A.F. was founded in 1980 by the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, a grassroots organization established in 1885. It's a nonprofit organization funded primarily by grants and foundation monies. The Board of Directors recently decided to change the legal name of this organization from Deafness Education Advocacy Foundation to DEAF Incorporated.

"We realize how important it is to have a recognizable name and image if we want to grow and succeed," says **Lori Breslow**, Executive Director, "Changing our name and establishing a distinctive image will help us do that. We would have not achieved this milestone without a local, reputable graphic-design agency, Larsen Design Office Inc.'s, assistance, which they provided on a *pro bono*° basis."

Discussion of the logo redesign began several months ago when the Board first examined the old logo (which represents the ASL sign for "support") and concluded that it did not present an understandable image for the general audience. The old logo was well-known to the Deaf community. However, it was unfamiliar to the general hearing community. (A number of them without any knowledge of ASL must have wondered just what those two fists nestled together meant!) Staff and the Board of Directors agreed that a new logo for DEAF should be able to convey an understanding of the organization's purposes.

The Board also realized that the word *foundation* implies that the agency is in the business of giving out money. They recognized this as possibly hindering DEAF's ability to receive funds from foundations. Yet the Board did not want to lose the recognition of the acronym—DEAF—since that is how the organization is known in the Deaf community. Thus a new name for the organization, which is now legally called D E A F Incorporated.

Board President **Linda Russell** says: "The Board of Directors continues to have a strong belief and faith in DEAF's ability to continue as a driving force in promoting every Deaf American's right to equal access and a better quality of life. "DEAF strives to be a strong leader in the provision of accessibility, communication, and education. In any event, I believe that with our new logo, DEAF will continue to make our dream become a reality and continue to grow stronger and alive!"

pro bono: "for the good" (Latin). Donating one's professional services to the community, as when a lawyer or law firm volunteers legal-assistance services or represents a client or group in court without pay, or, as here, when a for-profit company designs a logo for a nonprofit community agency free of charge.

Pedal power update: In the heart of downtown Minneapolis, approximately 1,700 riders began pedaling their bikes for AIDS Ride 2, a non-competitive bicycle pledge ride to Chicago July 7 to 12. The goal of this 470-mile trip? To raise funds and awareness for HIV/AIDS related services offered by several nonprofit organizations in the two cities. One of the riders, a local Deaf woman, knew that the ride would also be an emotional journey that would challenge and change her in many ways.

Although this was her first long-distance biking trip, **Nicole Zapko** said it was one of the best experiences of her life. In fact, she's already planning to participate in next year's ride. "I remember especially those last few miles, and finally arriving in Chicago," Zapko recalls. "I could feel the excitement building as we rode closer and closer. That moment of arriving at the finish line was so powerful, a mix of so many emotions, it's hard to explain to anyone else or even sort it all out for myself."

To be eligible for the AIDS Ride 2, riders were required to raise a minimum of $2,300. Zapko was able to reach this goal thanks to the sponsorship of DEAF, which has been providing HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) prevention education for the Deaf community since November 1995.*

"Because of Nicole's participation in the ride, more individuals in the Deaf community have been made aware of our program, which is an extremely important task," said Lori Breslow. "I am pleased that, working as a team, we were able to accomplish this."

Zapko, a 26-year-old actress who spent the last two years touring with the National Theater of the Deaf, explains, "Part of NTD's mission is to increase awareness of Deaf culture and issues. I knew that when I was finished touring with the group I wanted another opportunity to do this kind of outreach. The AIDS Ride 2 seemed to be a great way to increase awareness of some important issues, and challenge myself at the same time."

Even while on the road with NTD, Zapko would fit in training sessions whenever possible, even if it meant working out in her hotel room. Weeks of training, riding 15 to 50 miles a day to prepare for the ride, and the 6 long days of riding through heat, rain, and injury are parts of the experience she's glad are behind her. The feelings of camaraderie and support from the other riders and her fianceé, **Lisa**, and the sense of accomplishment at successfully completing the ride remain with her. She still wears two plastic bracelets she wore during the ride as tangible reminders of the experience. "I plan to wear these two bracelets as long as they last," Zapko said. "Each time I look at them, they give me a very special feeling about the impact I was able to make to increase awareness among both the Deaf and hearing communities. And they remind me of the impact this ride had on my own life as well. It was an experience I will never forget."

*See "Pedal power/the adventure of a lifetime," July 1997 "News Briefs," p. 19.

Time out: DEAF has started a pilot program: Deaf/Hard of Hearing Recreation Services. It's designed to increase access to metro-area recreational activities. **Dave Olson** has been hired as a part-time recreation-services coordinator to oversee this project. He began his new position on August 25.

"We are pleased to have Dave on staff," said Lori Breslow. "He will work with local schools, parks and recreation departments, and Deaf organizations to coordinate the delivery and evaluation of recreations programs for Deaf and/or hard-of-hearing individuals and their families throughout the Twin Cities area."

Info: For more information on DEAF programs, contact Michael F. Zeledon, D.E.A.F. Development Associate, at: ☎(612) 297-6704 (TTY/work); ❒(612) 297-6766 (FAX/work); ❖mfzeledon@juno.com (E-mail). Address: Deafness Education Advocacy Foundation, P.O. Box 75128, St. Paul, MN 55175-0128; ❖deafinc@juno.com (E-mail).

LEARNING THE ROPES (AND CLIMBING THE WALLS!)

A $10,000 grant has been awarded by the Columbus Foundation's Dorothy E. Ann Fund (D.E.A.F.) to Deaf Services Center, Inc., in support of the Deaf Youth Leadership Program. A portion of the grant will be used to create stipends, giving Deaf and hard-of-hearing youth the opportunity to attend the 1997 Deaf Adventure Academy Camp and other Deaf Youth Leadership-sponsored activities.

The Deaf Youth Leadership Program is designed to help Deaf and hard-of-hearing children develop self-esteem, self-confidence, responsible behavior, life skills, and leadership qualities. This is accomplished through a social club, which the participants have named the Deaf Kids Club and Deaf Teens Club. Monthly meetings, presentations by successful and inspiring Deaf adults, Deaf Adventure Academy Summer Camp are some of the activities conducted by the clubs. There are other special events and programs.

The 1997 Deaf Adventure Academy Camp took place at Camp Mary Orton in Worthington, Ohio. It features challenges like High Ropes, Climbing Walls, and the Giant's Ladder. Campers explored 167 acres of woods, ravines, and scenic river and learned how to build shelters, track animals, and make a fire. The summer-camp program for ages 9-11 ran from June 23-27, and for ages 12-15, August 11-15.

R.E.A.D.Y./DSC Summer program (for ages 9-15, 4th to 9th grade) took place July 21 to August 1. This is a dual summer program between Columbus Speech and Hearing Center's Reading and English Achievement for the Deaf Youth (R.E.A.D.Y.) and Deaf Services Center's Deaf Youth Leadership Program. R.E.A.D.Y. was held in the morning and DSC Youth Program provided the afternoon recreational activities.

For more information about Deaf Services Center's programs for Deaf children and adults, contact **Kassandra Schrienk**, Community Resources Coordinator, at ☎(614) 841-1991 (TTY/Voice). Address: 5830 N. High Street, Worthington, OH 43085.

Lost a world? No, found an audience! On July 20, ***The Lost World: Jurassic Park*** was shown at the AMC Lennox 24 Theater in Columbus, Ohio, with open captions.

DSC proudly issued a press release on July 2: "The First Time in Columbus, Ohio A First Run Movie is Made Accessible for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing." This announced the happy event and explained that "open-captioning is similar to subtitles shown at the bottom of the screen in foreign-language movies."

Kassandra Schrienk said, "For the first time in Columbus, Deaf and hard-of-hearing people can go to a movie theater and actually get 100% of what is being said. Up until now, it has been virtually impossible for most Deaf people to lipread well enough to follow along with a movie. [They] have only been able to understand and enjoy 'silent' or foreign-language films in the theaters.

"Although close-caption decoders connected to televisions and VCRs has allowed individuals to enjoy a wide variety of movies from their homes, we have had to wait 6 months or longer until the movies came out on videotape and we have not been able to enjoy what most hearing people take for granted, a night out at the movie theater."

Deaf children ages 12-15 who are members of DSC's Deaf Youth Leadership Program developed this event as a community project. Through their efforts, ***The Lost World*** was seen on the big screen by hundreds of delighted deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

Betsy Bachtel, Deaf Youth Coordinator, said, "It is a great experience for the kids to identify a need in the community and then successfully advocate for a remedy. If this event is successful, we will consider presenting open-captioned films

on a regular basis."

Tickets were available at DSC and at the box office before the showing. (But, warned the release, seating was limited—only 500 seats were available.) 100% the proceeds from ticket sales ($6.50 per adult; $5.50 for students and children 18 years and younger) went to support the Deaf Youth Leadership Program. This event was made possible by sponsorship of the Ohio Children's Foundation, in cooperation with the Dorothy E. Ann Fund of the Columbus Foundation, and TRIPOD Captioned Films. "A special thank-you to the AMC Lennox Town Center 24."

For information on upcoming events, contact Kassandra Schrienk at the above number and address.

THE BEST POSSIBLE START

Merrill Lynch & Co. Foundation will sponsor 66 new families in the next year through the First Year Free program provided by the American Society for Deaf Children. Through a generous donation of $5000, families with newly identified deaf or hard-of-hearing children are eligible for this unique program. In an official statement, **Elaine Ocuto**, ASDC President, said, "ASDC is proud of the collaboration efforts we have established with Merrill Lynch."

ASDC is celebrating 30 years of service to families raising children with hearing loss. It strongly upholds the belief that providing families of deaf/HH children with information and support in the first year enhances the quality of their lives.

The First Year Free Program is designed for families with children up to 4 years of age. It provides separate mailings on a variety of topics identified as "critical" during the first years. These topics include communication, language, hearing aids, and literacy. Parents also receive a personal phone call from another parent in their area when possible.

Professionals working with new families may register them directly by requesting an application form from the ASDC's National Office. Additional information about the many programs and services of ASDC is also available by contacting the National Business Office at ☎(916) 641-0684 (TTY/Voice) or E-mail to ❖ASDC1@aol.com. ASDC's address is 1820 Tribute Road, Suite A, Sacramento, CA 95815.

IN MEMORIAM: SANDY CANADA

Sandra "Sandy" Marie Canada of Yuba City, California, died July 7, as a result of an automobile accident.

Born in Sacramento, she was a lifelong Yuba-Sutter resident. She graduated from the California School for the Deaf (Berkeley/Fremont) in 1975, and attended at Gallaudet College later that year.

She worked as a transcriber for United Parcel Service, and was a member of the Yuba Sutter Club for the Deaf and the NorCal Deaf Association of Sacramento.

Survivors include her father, **Tom Canada** of Live Oak, California; two brothers, **Ed Canada** of Yuba City and **Richard Canada** of Gridley, California, and her grandmother, **Fouree Norsworthy** of Yuba City, California.

A large gathering of friends and families attended a memorial service at Live Oak Cemetery on July 12. Sandy's friends **Christopher** and **Karen Batchelor** have established a memorial fund, Sandy's Foundation. Donations can be made to NorCal Association of Sacramento, c/o **Marcia Turner**, 8958 W. Butte Road, Live Oak, CA 95953.

Karen Batchelor says, "Sandy's laughter and smile will be greatly missed."

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD . . . AND TO BE IGNORED?

researchers' request for participation

There are more than 1,000 professional articles in print concerning hearing marriages, but only some 10 to 20 such articles involving Deaf marriages.

With this limited number of professional resources available, professionals have more difficulty adequately helping Deaf people in their relationships and marriages. The Deaf population is one of the lowest-researched areas among cultural groups. Professionals need to understand the differences between people from different populations and not to assume that everybody's alike and treat every culture as the same.

We need **you** Deaf married couples to help other Deaf marriages. This involves filling out a variety of questionnaires for our research study. Confidentiality is assured in this project.

According to the 1994 marital statistics, approximately 50% of all American marriages end in divorce. Our research and the data collected can benefit and help organizations and professionals better meet the needs of people preparing for marriage, and those who are currently married. We need to support, share knowledge, and help keep marriages together.

This research is related to a doctoral-dissertation project and has been approved by the Rosemead School of Psychology Research Board in Southern California. Both Deaf and hearing are conducting this study. If you have any questions or want to get a packet of questionnaires, please E-mail your address to ❖ForDeaf@aol.com or ❖MbaroneMHC@aol.com. We can send you a packet through mail. The questionnaires will take you approximately one hour to complete. For those of you who prefer to do the survey through E-mail—you can find our survey on our Website—✷http://www.turbowp.com/deafstudy/survey1.htm. It is best reached by NetScape, Internet Explorer, or AOL 3 for 95. We need your help! Thank you! (➤)

MUNCHKINS, WIZARDS, & WITCHES WANTED!

CenterLight Sign & Voice Theatre is holding "open, non-eligible" auditions for the musical ***The Wizard of Oz***, which will run at the Black Box Theatre at the Center on Deafness in Northbrook. Adult/teen auditions are Saturday, September 13 from 12 to 4 p.m. and Monday, September 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Center on Deafness, 3444 Dundee Road, Northbrook, Illinois. Children's (under 12) auditions **only** Tuesday, September 16 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Centerlight Theatre seeks 16 Adult/teen actors, both male and female, of varying ages. Most roles will be double-cast with a signing actor and a voice. Especially needed: a children's chorus to play Munchkins and monkeys. Deaf children, teens, and adults are preferred for signing roles, but hearing actors of all ages and types are encouraged to audition for voicing roles. For voicers, knowledge of ASL is highly desirable but not necessary. There is pay for all roles except the children's chorus.

Rehearsals start September on evenings and weekends. Performances run November 21 to December 21.

Adult/teen actors should prepare a one-minute monologue and one verse of an upbeat show tune. Some actors may be asked to read from the script. Reading will be available at the audition site. Bring a picture and résumé. No appointments; walk-in only—first come, first served. Children (under 12) should prepare an animated one-minute short story,

For details: ☎(847) 559-9493 (TTY) or ☎(847) 559-0110 x 237 (Voice), weekdays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or leave a message.

FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE

A crowd of friends and relatives waits expectantly in a church for the wedding of a Deaf couple to begin. The groom's family is hearing and the bride's family is Deaf. And for the past three days, the shaky relationship between the two families has been battered by one misunderstanding after another. The two groups are divided by more than cultural differences and communication modes. They glare at each other. There's a feeling of tension . . . like the silence between warring sides of a feud before the shooting starts.

Can the Deaf couple actually find happiness? With all these strikes against it, can such a marriage succeed? You'll find the answer at the West Coast premiere of ***A Deaf Family Diary***, a new co-production of Ohlone College Sign Theatre and California SignRise, which will tour Northern California this October. ***A Deaf Family Diary*** was written and is being directed by Emmy Award-winning playwright and director **Don Bangs**, SignRise's Artistic Director. He has worked and taught in a variety of theater venues, including the National Theatre of the Deaf and the Gallaudet University Department of Theatre.

A Deaf Family Diary premiered at MSSD's Theatre Malz (on the Gallaudet campus) in 1995 to sold-out houses, standing ovations, and rave reviews.* It explores the family life of Deaf people and the comedy and tragedy that arise from conflicts between Deaf and hearing worlds. It weaves drama, storytelling, and visual spectacle into a moving theatrical experience in sign language and voice that can enjoyed by Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing audiences.

Diary opens at California School for the Deaf in Fremont from October 3-5, then runs at San Francisco State University from October 9-12. (Additional performances are planned for the Sacramento area.) Performances are at 8 p.m. on weekdays; 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturdays; and 2 p.m. on Sundays. For details: ☎(415) 964-5288 (TTY); ❒(415) 964-5492 (FAX); ❖SignRise@aol.com, or write: California SignRise c/o **Don** and **Joyce Ingraham**, 640 Cornelia Court, Mountain View CA 94040-3732.

*See "A match made in heaven," February 1995 "News Briefs," pp. 16-17.

AUSTIN ERUPTS!

Fox's new thriller, ***Volcano***, is being shown in Austin with open captions. The screening is sponsored by TRIPOD Captioned Films and Austin Deaf Caucus, and this marks the first time an open-captioned movie has been shown in the Austin area.

The Dobie Theater, 2025 Guadalupe Street, is featuring three showings of ***Volcano*** on Tuesday, September 9, Wednesday, September 10, and Thursday, September 11, at approximately 7 p.m. Tickets are $5 for adults, $3.50 for children age 12 and under. The theater is located in the Dobie Mall between Guadalupe Street and Whitis Avenue, and between 20th and 21st Street, next to Schlotzky's and near the 7-11 on Guadalupe and Martin Luther King Boulevard. Free public parking is available for Dobie Mall patrons on Whitis Avenue behind the mall.

Want to help sponsor a future open-captioned movie in Austin? Individual and corporate donations are appreciated, and will be acknowledged in the program booklets distributed before each showing. Questions? Contact **Tony McGregor**, ADC President, ☎(512) 450-0510 (TTY); ☎(512) 450-0372 (FAX); ❖tonymcgregor@mail.utexas.edu (E-mail); or **Debbie McCauley**, Chair of the Open-Captioned Film Project Committee, ☎(512) 462-1810 (TTY).

"TEAM RIT" TRIUMPHS

A contingent of nine RIT athletes—six students, one alumna, one faculty member, and one staffer—participated in the 18th World Games for the Deaf in Copenhagen, Denmark (July 13-26), and proudly brought home some medals.

Matt Hamill (Electromechanical Technology, NTID; Wrestling Team) won gold medals in 97 kg. Greco-Roman Wrestling and 97 kg. Freestyle Wrestling.

Jason Jakubowski (Industrial Drafting, NTID; Wrestling Team) took 5th place in 85 kg. Greco-Roman Wrestling.

Chris Majeri (Social Work, RIT; Team USA Soccer) stunned Greece's gold-medalist soccer team in a 1-1 tie at the opening match. The team couldn't hold momentum and didn't advance in the tournament, following losses to France, Turkey, and Belgium.

James Barnum (Electrical Engineering; Men's Athletics) won a silver medal in the Men's 4x400 Meter Relay

Kristen Rice (Science; Women's Athletics) won a bronze medal in Women's 100m Hurdles, took 4th place in the Women's Triple Jump, and 5th place in Women's 400m Hurdles.

Mark Sullivan (Business/Science) won a silver medal in Waterpolo.

Reed Gershwind (Faculty, Business Occupations) won a silver medal in Waterpolo.

Kris Gray (Alumna, Applied Art & Computer Graphics, NTID Class of '93) won a bronze medal in Women's Volleyball.

John Macko (Staff, NTID Center on Employment) took 5th place in Men's Volleyball.

GOING FOR THE GOLD—KENTUCKY STYLE

The 15th Annual Mini Deaf Sports Festival (also known as the "Mini Deaf Olympics") was held from July 27 to August 2 at the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville. It was sponsored by WHAS Crusade for Children, Fraternal Order of Police Metropolitan Lodge #32, and the Loyal Christian Benefit Association. It brought together hundreds of Deaf and hard-of-hearing people. Volunteers and participants came from 15 states and 35 schools. This event is the only one of its kind in the world. Every year, athletes arrive to compete in the daily sport competitions with hopes of taking home a gold medal!

In addition to the: games, a variety of activities were planned for the Festival week. These helped raise public awareness about the Deaf and hard-of-hearing population. The Governor declared July 27 to August 2 Deaf Sports Festival Awareness Week in Kentucky. The Mayor of the City of Louisville and the Jefferson County Judge/Executive joined him in their areas of leadership in the hopes that others would become more aware of this outstanding program. It's designed to meet the specific needs of Deaf and hard-of-hearing youths.

The Opening Ceremony and the Grand March took place on the afternoon of Sunday, July 27, at the Bate Middle School (next to Admiral Danville Stadium) in Danville and was open to the public. After the Opening Ceremony, a Block Party on the KSD campus provided refreshments and activities for the participants, volunteers, and their families and friends.

After orientation and team meetings on Sunday night, the games began on Monday morning. Sports competitions and structured activities took place each day of the week-long event. On Thursday evening, attendees and friends enjoyed rollerskating at the Fun Times Center. On Saturday morning, the Closing Ceremony was held at the Centre College Auditorium. Medals were awarded on individual and team competitions. A sportsmanship award was given to the team that exhibited the true championship spirit. Winners left wearing beautiful medals around their necks proclaiming "Sweet Victory."

For information on next year's event, contact the Mini Deaf Sports Festival at P.O. Box 548, Louisville, KY 40201-0548; ☎(502) 776-3359 (TTY); ☎(502) 776-DEAF (Voice), or ❐(502) 776-3913 (FAX).

WELCOME BACK, SPRINT!

On September 1, Sprint began providing TRS in California again. Customers can be connected directly with a Sprint agent by dialing one of four toll-free numbers: ☎888-877-5378 (TTY); ☎888-877-5379 (Voice); ☎888-877-5380 (ASCII); and ☎888-877-5381 (Spanish to Spanish).

Sprint's service includes use of a customer database, which allows callers to record their billing preferences, a list of frequently dialed numbers, call-block requests, and other notes. Sprint also provides Voice Carry-Over and Hearing Carry-Over service: VCO-to-VCO, VCO-to-TTY, HCO-to-HCO, HCO-to-TTY, two-line VCO service, and automatic error correction.

All long-distance calls (in-state and out-of-state) will be discounted at 35% off the Day Rate, 25% off the Evening Rate, and 10% off Night and Weekend Rates. Also offered: operator TTY service nationwide, which provides access for TTY users for virtually all operator services, including collect calls, directory assistance, and others.

"Sprint is pleased to once again provide its TRS to Californians because we know that, for relay users, quality service means quality of life," said **Don Teague**, Vice President and General Manager of Sprint's Government Systems Division. "We look forward to serving them beginning September 1."

Sprint, which serves 19 other states and the federal government as the nation's leader in TRS, provided high-quality relay service to Californians for 5 years until October 1996. At that time, the contract was turned over by the state to another provider (MCI) that had submitted a lower bid. After receiving a large number of service complaints, the California Public Utilities Commission took steps to allow multiple providers to offer service in competition. California has thus become the first state to offer customers a choice of TRS providers.*

* See also: "Californians get a choice—in TRS," July "News Briefs," pp. 3-4.

IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES GET A BREAK

a message from **Suzy Rosen**, NAD Legal Counsel for Government Affairs

Greetings. The NAD wishes to take this opportunity to thank supporters for making it possible to restore federal assistance for legal immigrants.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 was signed by President Clinton on August 5, and this law:

1. allows legal immigrants who were receiving SSI payments on August 22, 1996 to continue to receive SSI payments;

2. increases the timeframe for SSI eligibility for refugees, asylum-seekers, and persons whose deportation has been withheld from 5 to 7 years; and

3. provides SSI eligibility for most legal immigrants who were in the country on August 22, 1996 and were not receiving SSI at the time, but who subsequently become disabled.

For more information about SSI eligibility rules, call Social Security toll-free at ☎800-772-1213, or contact your local Social Security office.

Share this information with your local organizations, appropriate groups, family, and friends.

Questions? Contact Suzy Rosen at ☎(301) 587-4876 (TTY), ☎(301) 587-7730 (Voice), ❒(301) 587-0234 (FAX); ❖SuzyRosen@aol.com (E-mail). Address: NAD, 814 Thayer Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4500; ✷http://www.nad.org/ (WWW). (➤)

S.S.A. FAIRNESS BILL: CLEARING THE FIRST HURDLE

On July 24, a judiciary subcommittee with eight members present overwhelmingly approved legislation that would require the Social Security Administration to obey federal law when determining who receives disability benefits.

By a voice vote with four Democrats and four Republicans present, the bipartisan subcommittee supported H.R. 1544, known as "Remedy '97: The Federal Agency Compliance Act." The legislation would require all federal agencies to follow the law rather than their own policies.

Voting in favor of the legislation were bill sponsor Rep. George Gekas (R-PA), Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Ed Bryant (R-TN), Jerry Nadler (D-NY), William Delahunt (D-MA) and Marty Meehan (D-MA). Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) cast the only objection.

"This is just the first step in seeing Remedy '97 become the law of the land," said Jim Allsup, CEO of Allsup Inc. and one of the nation's foremost champions of people with disabilities. "Millions of Americans with disabilities are denied their legitimate disability claims because the Social Security Administration has been taking the law into its own hands. We are law-abiding citizens and we demand law-abiding legislators."

Key to enacting the legislation is a letter from the Social Security Administration to its administrative law judges telling them to ignore federal law and follow the agency's Program Operations and Manual System (POMS) when determining who receives disability benefits.

In an earlier statement, Rep. Gekas remarked on the ethical dilemma administrative law judges face when determining disability cases. "We have a memo from the Social Security Administration telling the judges who rule in benefits cases only to follow those federal court rulings SSA agrees to follow," said Rep. Gekas in an earlier statement. "Administrative law judges are sworn to uphold the Constitution. Under the rule of the law, we expect taxpayers to comply with the law, even if they personally disagree with it. I expect no less from the Social Security Administration and every other federal agency."

Allsup expressed cautious optimism for the future of the legislation but he urged all concerned citizens to call or write their representatives in Congress and ask them to support H.R. 1544.

A DISABILITY COMMUNITY—ONLINE

Six years ago Steve Palermo was told he would never walk again. Palermo, one of Major League Baseball's premier umpires, was lying in a Dallas hospital bed after being shot while preventing a robbery. Paralyzed from the waist down, he was facing what could be a life-long battle in learning to walk again. Moreover, while he confronted his disability, he also had to take on the daunting task of learning how to safeguard his family's financial future.

Today, Palermo only would need to know the right Website to become more informed about the options that exist for the newly-disabled. Fortis Benefits Insurance Company, a leading provider of disability insurance, and Employease, Inc. (✷http://www.employease.com) whose Benefits Management Network™ is the first Internet-based employee-benefits and human-resource-administration service, have partnered to create an online Disability Forum. The site is a comprehensive resource on the Web for disability-insurance information.

The Disability Forum (✷http://www.employease.com/disability) is an online community that provides a meeting place for employers, employees, human resource personnel, insurance specialists and disabled persons to communicate openly and improve their overall understanding of disability issues. Statistics from the Society of Actuaries state that nearly one in 7 persons will become disabled for 5 or more years prior to age 65.

Said John Nail, CEO of Employease, "The Internet is the ideal medium for initiating such an important discussion.

People enter and exit on their own terms from anywhere at anytime. Someone who is living through the experience of a disabling injury can communicate candidly with employers looking into insurance and administrators who have served as the liaison between employee and employer. At the Disability Forum, users can address questions directly to industry experts—without leaving their desks."

The site also offers educational and legal reference materials, question-and-answer sessions from industry experts, discussion groups, and real-life insights from people like Palermo who have experienced disabilities.

"The Disability Forum provides me with the opportunity to share my experiences with other disabled people as well as employers and those who are considering disability coverage," said Palermo. "The coverage I had through my union allowed me to provide for my family and concentrate on my recovery instead of worrying about losing my income. When you are recovering from a disability you need as few distractions as possible."

"When a known figure like Steve Palermo shares the uncertainty and fear that is caused by losing your livelihood due to disability, it has a very sobering affect on you," said Bud Guthrie, Executive Vice President of Marketing and Sales at Fortis Benefits Insurance Company. "Far too few people understand the value and importance of disability insurance. Our hope is that by providing an assortment of experts, commentary and information on disability insurance we will be able educate a wider audience so that should the moment of need arrive they will be prepared."

Rather than create a "sales"-oriented site, Fortis is working with groups such as Employease and Disability Consulting Group, Inc. of Portland, Maine, to create an interactive information center. Disability Consulting Group and other organizations will serve as experts to answer questions posed by visitors to the site. In the coming weeks, leading insurance and disability experts, representing different companies and backgrounds, will present alternative views in panel discussions. "We have positioned the information in as neutral a manner as possible," said Guthrie. "We feel that a greater understanding of disability insurance is to the advantage of the entire industry and public as well."

Guthrie said that the site was appealing to Fortis for a number of reasons. "The Disability Forum offers us the opportunity to grow our brand in a new-medium and maintain our leadership position in disability insurance while providing a valuable educational service."

Employease's role in the project is to provide the Web expertise, planning and programming necessary to build the site. "Searching the Web for specific information can be a time-consuming and arduous° task." said Nail. "With the addition of the Disability Forum, the Employease Website offers timely, original content to industry professionals while interconnecting other sites of interest for a one-stop bank of links for human resource, insurance, and benefits professionals.

"The Disability Forum is the first in a series of the third-party-sponsored Forums we are planning on a variety of benefits topics. Our vision is to create an online benefits community that offers HR and benefits professionals one comprehensive Website for all of their employee-benefits information needs."

Backgrounds: Fortis Benefits Insurance Company, based in Kansas City, MO., specializes in nonmedical employee benefits. Offerings include long-term and short-term disability, life and accidental death and dismemberment coverage, and dental insurance.

Employease, headquartered in Atlanta, has built a world-class HR and benefits-administration system that serves as a shared resource for small-to-midsized companies. The Benefits Management Network automates the administration and paperwork of employee-benefit and HR programs. As a shared database application, the Benefits Management Network makes previously inaccessible functionality affordable for the smaller business market and provides a platform for standardized electronic communications and transactions throughout the employee-benefits industry.

arduous: difficult; exhausting; agonizingly slow.

SPOTLIGHTING ABILITY

Christopher Reeve has joined the Board of Directors of the National Organization on Disability and will serve as Vice Chairman. Reeve said, "I am proud to join the leadership of this fine organization that is dedicated to improving the lives of all Americans with disabilities."

NOD Chairman Michael R. Deland, who made the announcement on June 23, said, "Like many of America's 49 million persons with disabilities, Christopher Reeve entered the disability community in an instant. Immediately after his catastrophic equestrian accident in May, 1995, he took up the disability cause in a dynamic way.

"Visiting with Christopher Reeve and his wife Dana at their home, I gained a real appreciation of what he is doing now in the field of disability and of his dreams for the future of those with disabilities throughout the world. He is undaunted. We at NOD and disability groups everywhere will benefit from his passion and his perseverance."

A graduate of Cornell University and Juilliard, Reeve has distinguished himself in numerous stage, screen and television productions. Best known for his wonderful portrayal of Superman in Richard Donner's original ***Superman*** and two sequels, Reeve could—and did—more than portray superheroes. He recently made his directorial debut with the critically-acclaimed HBO film, ***In the Gloaming***, and soon will begin directing his first full-length feature film, ***Tell Me True***. He is a member of the boards of The Charles Lindbergh Foundation, The Theatre Communications Group, and People for the American Way. He is also Chairman of the Board of the American Paralysis Association and President of the

Christopher Reeve Foundation. In 1988, he received the Obie Award and the Walter Briehl Human Rights Foundation Award for demonstrating in Chile on behalf of 77 actors who were threatened with execution by the Pinochet government. Reeve's extensive advocacy also has included such activities as addressing the United Nations to encourage the banning of drift-net tuna fishing.

NOD President Alan A. Reich said, "Christopher already has made enormous contributions furthering NOD's goal of full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life. Most notably, he has brought hope to disabled persons worldwide by highlighting and accelerating research in regeneration of the central nervous system. This intensified research toward a cure for spinal-cord injury and related disorders promises ultimately to bring millions of people more fully into the mainstream of life. Thanks to Christopher, this research is now attracting greater funding, and more neuroscientists are entering the field." Not long after his accident, Mr. Reeve met with President Clinton at the White House and secured a commitment from the President for an additional $10 million in regeneration research.

Reeve also has provided leadership on other matters of concern to people with disabilities. In May, 1996, he convinced President Clinton to call for depiction of President Roosevelt's disability in the national Memorial to FDR in Washington, D.C. And, he currently is leading the fight to increase the limit on catastrophic-injury health coverage from $1 million to $10 million. Said Reich: "Christopher is inspiring disabled persons everywhere to realize their full potential. No one better personifies the NOD message—'It's ability, not disability, that counts'—than Christopher Reeve."

Background: The National Organization on Disability promotes the full and equal participation of America's 49 million, men, women, and children with disabilities in all aspects of life. Founded in 1982 as an outgrowth of the United Nations International Year of Disabled Persons, NOD is the only national-network organization concerned with all disabilities, all age groups and all disability issues. NOD involves people with and without disabilities in its nationwide programs. It receives no government funds and is supported entirely by private donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

BITS & PIECES

☞ **What a beach!** About 300 deaf and hard-of-hearing people and their friends attended WRAD's International Beach Party in Hornbaek, Denmark on Tuesday, July 22. It was held in conjunction with the World Games for the Deaf in progress in Copenhagen from July 13 to 26. **Bruce Gross** of the USA, President of WRAD International, and **Sandy Chowles** of South Africa, coordinated the party. Gross helped Chowles start a new WRAD National Group in South Africa. Among those who helped with the party was Reed Gershwind of Rochester, New York, WRAD International Treasurer and a WGD participant.

Hornbaek is a beautiful place, about one-and-a-half hours from Copenhagen by train, and Sweden is visible at a distance. The WRAD party attracted a large crowd partly because of the beautiful summer weather and partly because attendees wanted to take a break from the Games and have a good time on the beach. It really was an "International" affair. Attendees were from Russia, Ireland, South Africa, Italy, Ireland, Canada, the United States, Turkey, France, Belgium, and other nations.

They played volleyball and had other fun activities, including a beauty contest for women and a muscle contest for men. Just when the muscle contest was over, it started to rain hard—but it was time to go back to Copenhagen anyway!

☞ **Nice to be recognized, we guess:** The Jehovah's Witnesses held a 1997 "Faith in God's Word" District Convention in Escondido, California, from August 1-3. Between 800 and 1,000 delegates from Canada, Mexico, and the States were expected to attend. This District Convention and one in New Jersey were presented in ASL.

☞ **Gimme that old-time religion:** Pre-Hispanic Cultures, Inc., presented "The Return of the Mayan-Aztec Shaman" for a special Deaf group (hearing people welcome, too) on the weekend of August 23-24. Site: Temescal Canyon Conference and Retreat Center, Pacific Palisades, California. Two seminars were conducted by the Mayan-Aztec Shaman **Quetza-Sha** (a holy man) with a Spanish/ASL interpreter. On Saturday he lectured on Mayan culture, spirit, and calendar, and discussed the Aztec, Incan, and other cultures too. On Sunday, after lecturing on Mayan traditions, he performed a Mayan ceremony of healing, purification, and peace for the world.

☞ **Hey! Wanna learn ASL?** DeafWide Services, a nonprofit organization serving Long Island and surrounding areas, has an Interpreter Training Program, and is also offering classes in ASL and Deaf Studies. Classes start in October. For registration information: ☎(516) 364-3899 (TTY), via New York Relay at ☎1-800-421-1220 for Voice callers. Or fax anytime at ❐(516) 364-4612.

☞ **Talk in the dark!** Light Talk™ gloves enable signers to carry on signed conversations even after the lights go out. Made of nylon/lycra stretch knit, they glow brightly for approximately 30 minutes, and can be instantly renewed under any light source. Light Talk's **Lauren Lee** says, "We are getting a positive response from both the deaf community and hearing signers. We think our idea is innovative and sure to spark a lot of interest and fun."

☞ **Instant replay:** Fanlight Productions has released a new video by **Margo Meisel**, ***Voices in a Deaf Theater***. It's a documentary that follows a mixed cast of Deaf and hearing

actors at Gallaudet University as they prepare to present an ASL production of **Tennessee Williams'** ***The Glass Menagerie***. While the Deaf actors onstage perform in ASL, hearing actors provide a simultaneous voice version. For the play to work dramatically, the two sets of players must work together to arrive at a shared interpretation of the characters they are playing, and a tightly synchronized style and cadence. As they rehearse, each group experiences a difficult but rewarding creative journey into the culture of the other.

☞ **Happy New Year/Century:** How do you plan to celebrate the turn of the century (1999-2000)? Some staffers at North Lincolnshire College in England would like to know. Here's the message: "We are a Further Education College in Lincoln, UK, which supports several Deaf and partially hearing students. A colleague is undertaking a project in British Sign Language on the views of Deaf people on the Millennium. How relevant is it for Deaf people? How should the worldwide Deaf community celebrate the year 2000? I would be grateful if you could ask anyone who has views to contact us."—**Barbra Plunkett**, Coordinator for Learning Support, North Lincolnshire College, Monks Road, Lincoln, UK, LN2 5HQ, ☎01522 510530 x 2093 (Voice or minicom); ❒01522 512930 (FAX); ❖B_Plunkett@nlincs-coll.ac.uk (E-mail). (Thanks to Michele Listisard for forwarding this message to us.)

➤ = Taken or adapted from NJ-L.

CAPTIONWATCH

COMING UP: MORE CAPTIONING ON TV (BUT NOT RIGHT AWAY, AND NOT 100%)

On August 7, the FCC unanimously approved a new law that will mandate captioning on virtually all television programming in the United States. Section 305 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 is being implemented as a new section (Section 713) of the existing Communications Act.

The ruling takes effect on January 1, 1998, and phases in requirements separately for "old" and "new" programming. For programming that first aired prior to the effective date of the law, the FCC is allowing a 10-year transition period, after which 75% of the "old" programming must be captioned. This decision (the choice of 75% as a benchmark value) will be reevaluated in 4 years by the FCC.

For "new" programming, airing for the first time after the effective date of the law, the FCC is allowing an 8-year transition period with milestones along the way. At the end of that 8-year period (as of January 1, 1996), 95% of all new programming must be captioned. This is a compromise from the 100% called for in the preliminary rulemaking.

The FCC allowed quite a few exemptions to the rules, including:

1) No video programmer will be required to spend more than 2% of its annual gross revenues on captioning.

2) All non-English programming is exempted.

3) "Non-vocal" programming is exempted.

4) Commercials and public-service announcements are exempted.

5) Programming from "new networks" is exempted.

6) All programs aired between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. are exempted.

A full transcript of this morning's meeting was to be made available at ✷<http://www.caption.com/fcc/>

(➤)

MAKING MANDATORY CAPTIONING "A WIN-WIN SITUATION"

On July 23, two weeks before the FCC released its ruling, VITAC announced a four-pronged strategy to help cable companies, broadcasters, and other program providers deal with the regulations of the FCC's Report & Order on captioning, released on August 7.

This strategy is designed to support, prepare, and champion the industry in making an easier transition. VITAC, which has major contracts with nearly every broadcast and cable network and studio, has assembled a team of specialists who can help program providers plan cost-effective ways to meet the FCC mandate. It was widely anticipated that the FCC would order cable networks and broadcasters to caption more programming, though it had not yet been confirmed how comprehensive the mandate would be.

"VITAC has devised a practical plan for enabling program providers to accommodate the Report & Order in a way which will prove manageable and will benefit, enhance, and strengthen the excellence of the cable and broadcast industries," said **Joseph R. Karlovits**, President of VITAC. "We have always been client-oriented, and we felt that it was critical that we look for ways to support our colleagues in an industry that means so much to this nation. Most of VITAC's key executives started out in TV production, and they understand the program providers' concerns. We intend to draw on that expertise to help the industry meet its obligations and look good in the process."

VITAC's four-pronged approach is structured to address the following categories for program providers: technical, financial support, marketing, and legal assistance. It has set up a toll-free number, ☎1-800-78-VITAC, to answer questions

and provide assistance.

Technical support encompasses captioning logistics, and how they can be factored into the production process in a timely and thrifty manner. What practical criteria should a programmer look for in a captioning company with regard to quality and service? How can the captioning company help to expedite the process with the programmer's internal staff? What are the captioning terms? How do the process, cost, and time issues differ between real-time captioning of live programming and off-line captioning of pretaped programming?

The *financial-support* plan that VITAC has developed is innovative and unique. Program providers will have the opportunity to explore ways of reducing their overall costs, attracting outside sponsorship of the captioning costs, and managing the cash flow of payments for captioning. **Deborah Schuster**, VITAC's Vice President of Sales, said, "We expect that the captioning of video libraries will present special challenges to our clients, and we want to be sensitive to that need."

Karlovits agreed. "We are committed to: the significance of captioning in the lives of 130 million Americans who can benefit from words on the screen. Therefore, it makes sense for us to make it easier for companies to extend this service to viewers in a way which is not financially prohibitive. It's about good will," he said. "We are empathetic to the financial challenges the FCC's Report & Order may provide for some networks and we have solutions which will make it workable."

From a *marketing* standpoint, VITAC intends to guide the networks and programmers into viewing captioning as an opportunity to enhance their visibility in the marketplace and target an untapped and loyal audience ("demographic"). VITAC plans to develop marketing, public relations, and promotional plans to promote captioned programs to the caption audience. That market is comprised of 28 million Deaf and hard-of-hearing people, 45 million people learning English as a second language, including the important Asian and Hispanic markets, 28 million elementary school children honing reading skills, and 27 million adults learning to read. Studies have proven the caption viewer to be particularly brand-conscious, network-loyal, and brand-loyal.

From the standpoint of *legal assistance*, VITAC's specialists will serve as a clearinghouse in helping decipher the implications and practical application for the FCC's ruling.

Karlovits emphasized, "We believe that with forethought. sensitivity, practical business applications, and creative flexibility, the FCC's ruling will help the people who can most benefit from captioning without proving to be a burden for the programmer. We intend to move in the direction of a win-win situation for everyone."

■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■

TELL 'EM THANKS . . . WE WANT MORE!

Carol Finkle of Creative Access is encouraging all caption consumers to contact Universal Studios at ✷http://www.universalpictures.com/EMailIndex.html, and to send an E-mail—not to complain, but to express thanks for Universal's decision to test-screen open-captioned movies in several cities.

She suggests that you say something like, "Thanks for taking the lead in welcoming Deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans back to the movies across the nation," or whatever comments you'd like to share. ("I want open-captioned movies in my city, too!") If you're one of the lucky viewers participating in the test project, mention how delighted you are to have the opportunity to enjoy a captioned movie on the big screen. Talk about your experience. Describe how frustrating it was not to have full access to an first-run American-made movie. Give your perspective. Express your hope that open-captioned movies will be available in every neighborhood cinemas, so deaf viewers will have a *real* choice.

So . . . E-mail Universal now! Don't delay. If Universal gets a good response, the other five major studios may follow Universal's lead in providing open-captioned movies every week at neighborhood cinemas, during the opening run of every newly-released movie.

Send a copy of your E-mail to Carol Finkle, Creative Access/NAD Chair for Movie Access, ❖CrAccess@aol.com.

DeafLife

wishes you a enjoyable, safe, and fun Labor Day Weekend! Use sunscreen lotion and sunglasses.

INSIDE NAD

Coming Up: President's Tour

The idea of having NAD President Ben Soukup go on a 50-state tour was conceived early last winter. The tour will be handled on a regional basis, with Soukup making a number of stops on each outing. The purposes of the tour:

- to bring the NAD to "Deaf America;"
- to recruit more members for the NAD through the promotion of State Association membership
- to acquaint students, in a variety of settings, with the NAD;
- to bring the NAD to the community at large.

States that have contacted tour developers with tentative plans include Montana Nevada, Washington, Hawaii, Kentucky, Oregon, and Idaho. Other states expressing interest include Florida, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New Jersey, and (of course!) Washington, D.C. and Maryland.

Interested in having Ben Soukup appear in your hometown? Want some ideas for including a tour stop with other event? For more information, such as what to expect, and what is needed, contact Nancy Rarus at ☎(301) 587-1791 (FAX) or ❖nbrarus@mcimail.com (E-mail) to get the ball rolling. Make sure your community is part of this historic tour!

An Open Letter to State Association Conventioneers and Presidents

Beginning this summer, election of officers will take place at your State Conventions.

Conventioneers: please keep in mind these descriptions of *your* responsibility as you elect your State Association Presidents.

State Association Presidents (and those wishing to run for presidency): keep in mind these responsibilities you will need to carry out if you are elected. The office of the State Association President is very time-consuming! It is very important that the person elected to this office is able to give it the time and energy it deserves to make the State Association a very productive organization. Many people think that to be President means that s/he does all the work No! The President needs to appoint people and/or establish committees of people whom s/he knows will be committed to do the work The President needs to give people support by checking with them to be sure that the work is done. There are at least three areas that many State Associations need to strengthen:

Youth Programs

1) Junior NAD: are the chapters involved with the State Association in any way?

2) Sending students to Jr. NAD regional conferences and/or Jr. NAD National conventions as well as to the Youth Leadership Camp (YLC) program

3) Miss Deaf State Association Pageant: this is an opportunity for young ladies to start developing leadership, and State Associations should take the lead in encouraging and recruiting potential leaders.

Interpreting

1) Are you wondering if you could have more say in how interpreters are certified?

2) Are you concerned about the quality of interpreters in educational settings (K-12)?

3) Would you like to have a NAD IAP (Interpreter Assessment Program) team set up in your state?

Advocacy

1) Hearing parents need mentors and/or role models for their deaf children.

2) Monitoring implementation/enforcement of

IDEA/.ADA compliance is a necessary nuisance. Who will do it?

3) Awareness programs, such as the upcoming NAD Tour, and Deaf Awareness Week in September.

Now, back to the *election*. Who in your state will commit her/himself to the tasks at hand? This person needs to also have the support of his/her State Association to work with most recent technology possible, i.e., E-mails and/or faxes.

Conventioneers: Yes, you have a responsibility! Choose the person who will do the job! Then your second responsibility will be to support your President and your Association.

711 On its Way

On February 19, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) took the unprecedented action of assigning the numbers 711 for nationwide access to telecommunications-relay services (TRS). The FCC's action is the direct result of the involvement of the National Center for Law and Deafness (now known as the NAD Law Center) at Gallaudet University, NAD, TDI, and several other national and local consumer organizations, in FCC numbering proceedings that began in 1992.

Many questions remain for the FCC to resolve before 711 is actually implemented. For example, the FCC wants to make sure that competition among relay-service providers will continue even though there would be a 711 access number Secondly, the FCC questioned whether the 711 number should be used to provide access to both voice and text TRS services. (Currently, some states have one relay number for voice and TTY calls, while other states provide separate numbers for voice calls and TTY calls). The FCC believes that some time will be needed to prepare the telecommunications network for use of a 711 number as the TRS code and they propose that implementation of 711 should occur within 3 years of the effective date of its final rule in this proceeding. The text of Further Notice of Proposed Rule-Making (FNPRM) can be found on the FCC's Web page at ✱http://www.fcc gov/.

State Association Presidents' Conference Held in California

The Fourth Annual State Association Presidents' Conference (SAPC) was held in Fremont, March 6-9. Hosted by the California Association of the Deaf and held at the California School for the Deaf, Fremont, the 3-day conference consisted of general sessions, hands-on training, and informal information exchanges The SAPC was preceded by a meeting of the NAD Board of Directors. Forty-eight state-association presidents (including 10 representatives) attended the SAPC, which is a private meeting (i.e., not open to the public or observers) with the purpose of bringing state-association leaders together for annual training and information sharing. The SAPC began in 1994 under the direction of Ben Soukup. All costs of the SAPC are currently paid by the NAD through fundraising efforts and general funds.

The SAPC attendees were: Jimmy Peterson (Alabama); John Miranda (Alaska); Michael Ubowski (Arizona); Ernest Northup (Arkansas); Ron Rhodes (California); Ron Faucett, Jr. (Colorado); Jerry McCarthy (Connecticut); David Nelson (Washington, D.C.—representative); Peter Bailey (Delaware); Alex Fleischman (Florida); Lisa Marchman (Georgia); Linda Lambrecht (Hawaii); Janette Lancaster (Idaho); James Games (Indiana); Ken Derby (Iowa); Julie Theel (Kansas); D. Cole Zulauf (Kentucky); Mary Smith (Louisiana); Theresa McLaughlin (Maine—representative); Charles Giansanti (Maryland); Edgar Herrera (Massachusetts); Dallas Barker (Michigan); Douglas Bahl (Minnesota); Mary Margiotta (Mississippi); Paul Miller (Missouri); James Allen (Montana); Hal Wright (North Carolina); Michele Rolewitz (North Dakota); James DeVaney (Nebraska); Norma Chrisman (Nevada—representative); William Case (New Hampshire); Philip Moos (New Jersey); Robbie Cates (New Mexico); Martin Florsheim (New York); Bob Donaldson (Ohio—representative); Sam Anthony (Oklahoma—representative); Robert Lidfors (Oregon); Lawrence Hast (Pennsyl-

vania—representative); Earnest Okwara (Rhode Island); Sherry Williams (South Carolina); Jane Souhrada (South Dakota); Larry Evans (Texas); Dave Mortensen (Utah); Richard Lin (Virginia—representative); Amy Rowley (Wisconsin—representative); Larry Hubbard (West Virginia—representative); Tonya Mickelson (Washington—representative); and Mark Bennett (Wyoming).

Highlights of Recent NAD Board Meeting, March 5-7, Fremont

All Board members were present except for Karen Dishno (Region II, Wisconsin) and Libby Pollard (Region I, Pennsylvania), who were both excused. Topics covered during the Board meeting (not in priority order) included:

- Resignation of Nancy Bloom Rarus as NAD Board Secretary; Board selection of Dick Babb as the new NAD Board Secretary; Region IV selection of Ron Rhodes (a spot formerly held by Dick Babb) as a new representative, effective April 1st.
- Ratification of Finance Committee report, including proposed FY98 budget and revised investment policy.
- Inclusion in future **Broadcaster** issues an ongoing series on financial and related matters.
- Expansion of Cochlear Implant Committee to include a blue-ribbon subcommittee consisting of physicians, researchers, ethicists, and policy representatives.
- Provision that the NAD President and NAD Executive Director meet with the California Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to finalize arrangements pertaining to the NAD Interpreter Assessment Program.
- Clarification of policies regarding advance approval for committee expenditures.
- Ratification of policy manual section on representation at national events.
- Selection of chairs to run business-meeting component of regional NAD conferences, to enable greater participation in discussion by Board representatives.
- Acceptance of presentation on *ad hoc* IAP Committee activities and schedule April 11-13 meeting at NAD Headquarters.
- Review and development of recommendations by Education Committee regarding proposed Education position at NAD Headquarters.
- Provision of bylaws assistance to Aloha State Association of the Deaf.
- Acceptance of 1998 NAD Convention logo and theme: "Branding the Future: Leading, Not Lassoed!"

The next NAD Board of Directors meeting was held May 30-June 1 in Pittsburgh.

—Michele Listisard

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Mill Neck Services Job Development Program

Are you Deaf or Hard of Hearing? Are you looking for work? Mill Neck Service's Job Development Program can help you obtain employment. Please contact our agency at ☎(516) 922-3334 (TTY) or ☎(516) 922-3818 (Voice).

Sign Language Interpreters

Need a Sign Language Interpreter for special events? Contact Mill Neck Services Interpreter Referral at ☎(516) 922-3334 (TTY) or ☎(516) 922-3818 (Voice).

Are You A Mill Neck Manor Graduate?

If so, Mill Neck Manor Alumni Association wants to inform you of exciting Alumni projects including the *50th Anniversary/Reunion Celebration* set for the year 2001. Please contact James Feldmann with your address and phone# by phone: ☎(516) 922-4100 (TTY) ext. 206; or FAX: ❐(516) 922-4172.

Rates: 30 words or less, $20.00. 25¢ per additional word. All classifieds **must** be prepaid; please enclose check or money order with submission. All information must be **typed** or **printed**. Illegible submissions or those without spaces between words will not be accepted. Deadline for submission is 1st of the month for the following month. We reserve the right to edit or reject any submission.

SPRINGFIELD HOSPITAL CENTER:

PSYCHOLOGIST

Springfield Hospital Center has a full-time position available for a licensed or license-eligible psychologist. This is a unique opportunity to work on a 20-bed unit which is the only in-patient program for deaf, mentally ill individuals in Maryland. An ideal candidate would have sign language competency, documented experience working within the Deaf Culture, and have forensic evaluation experience as well. APA accredited program and internship preferred. Competitive State of Maryland salary and benefits.

Contact: Jim Heckman, Coordinator of Deaf Services, 410-549-7950 or 1-800-249-4347 (TTY), 410-795-2100 ext. 3823 (Voice), no later than September 15, 1997, or send C.V. to Jim Heckman, c/o Deaf Unit, Springfield Hospital Center, 6653 Sykesville Road, Sykesville, MD 21784.

DIRECT CARE TRAINEE

A psychiatric hospital located in the central Maryland region, Springfield has an opening for a Direct Care Trainee/Aide to work in the Deaf Unit. Experience in mental health, sign language skills, and Deaf Culture preferred. Sign language classes available. Competitive State of Maryland salary and benefits.

Contact Vivian Gimeno, Nurse Recruiter, 410-795-2100 x 3418 (Voice); 410-549-7950 (TTY) by October 15, 1997. E.O.E. Deaf or hard-of-hearing encouraged to apply.

Services and facilities of the Maryland Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene are operated on a non-discriminatory basis and are in compliance with the ADA of 1990.